

CLOSING SESSION

FRIDAY, 1 MARCH 2024 – 10 P.M.

Chairperson of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference

[Final Remarks by the MC13 Chairperson]

*Honourable Ministers,
Chairperson of the General Council,
Director-General of the WTO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- This has been a truly remarkable journey. My deep appreciation goes once again to the Vice Chairpersons; the Minister-Facilitators; and Facilitators for their invaluable assistance and tireless efforts, including through chairing a range of Working and Convergence Building Sessions and undertaking numerous consultations. You have undertaken tremendous work to facilitate Ministers' engagements across all areas – and I commend you all for that.
- I also wish to place on record my gratitude to the WTO Director-General and the Chairperson of the General Council for their invaluable contributions in the run-up to MC13, as well as during the Conference. It was an honour to collaborate with you.
- I would likewise wish to thank all delegations who have participated in the Conference. It has been an honour hosting the entire WTO membership in Abu Dhabi. Without everyone's tireless efforts, we would not have arrived at the outcomes we managed to adopt today.
- While we may not have accomplished everything, we set out to achieve, we have delivered some much-needed results. On all other work streams, efforts will continue in Geneva. And let us remember that outcomes can be harvested by the

General Council as soon as they are ready - in the interval to the next Ministerial Conference.

- There are also other reasons to celebrate the achievements of this Ministerial Conference. Notably, we have finalized the accessions of Comoros and Timor-Leste – two Least-developed countries, which will soon join the WTO family. This sends a positive signal as it shows that countries continue to have confidence in the WTO and its ability to support their economic development objectives.
- We all know that international cooperation is not only the best, but often the only way to address the challenges that affect global trade. Delivering the Abu Dhabi package of outcomes is a true testament to the value that Members continue to attach to the Organization and its pivotal role in ensuring an orderly global system of trade rules. Delivering these results also enhances trust and confidence in multilateralism, which is particularly valuable given the testing and uncertain times we find ourselves in.
- With the adopted Abu Dhabi Package we have demonstrated that we can work together, cooperate and deliver – mindful of our shared interests and collective responsibility. We can certainly be proud of arriving at the Abu Dhabi Package of Outcomes!
- *Excellencies*, I thank you all for your participation in the Thirteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference. It has been a true honour and privilege to host you here in Abu Dhabi.
- With these words, I now declare the **Thirteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference** of the WTO **closed**.