

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(01)/ST/108
12 November 2001

(01-5700)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fourth Session
Doha, 9 - 13 November 2001

Original: English

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Statement by H.E. Mrs Anarhan Rahmanova
on behalf of the
Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry

First of all I would like to thank His Highness the Emir and the Government of Qatar, as well as the WTO Secretariat on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for all efforts and endeavours undertaken for the successful conduction of the Ministerial Conference.

I would like to warmly congratulate our neighbour – People's Republic of China, as well as Chinese Taipei with successful completion of their accession processes to the WTO. Our nations have a long history of trading relations, which goes back to many ages. Today, China is one of the main trading partners of the Kyrgyz Republic as it is for many other countries as well. This is a historic event that opens a new era for the WTO as a truly global Organization.

Yet we have a considerable number of countries, which are in the process of their accession to the WTO. We support rapid and successful accession of these countries, which, of course, will depend largely on their readiness to liberalization and reforms. However, on the other hand, we stress that these countries should not be requested to undertake too far-reaching commitments, which go beyond those undertaken by the current Members.

The Kyrgyz Republic supports the concept of progressive liberalization and considers it as the key element of development. Thus, the Kyrgyz Republic, during the last Ministerial Conference in Seattle, supported launching the further negotiations on trade liberalization with the note that negotiations should be fair and focused on a wide scope of benefits for developing and least-developed countries. Today, Kyrgyzstan remains interested in the success of the Ministerial Conference in Doha and in opening a new stage of development of the multilateral trading system.

The Kyrgyz Republic as a country recently acceded to the WTO, has undertaken significant liberalization commitments, which in many cases go far beyond those made during the Uruguay Round, therefore, showed a great degree of flexibility. The low bound rates of tariffs, liberal access to services markets, commitments to eliminate export subsidies, as well as low levels of domestic support in agriculture should be of a particular note. Despite the difficulties the Kyrgyz Republic is facing as a country in transition, some of the commitments undertaken exceed the levels established for developing countries. Therefore, we reasonably expect from both, developed and developing country Members, flexibility with the purpose of achieving an overall balance of rights and obligations in the new round.

Fundamental reforms in the agricultural sector, in respect to elimination of export subsidies, improving market access, and reduction of distortions is a vital necessity. We understand the sensitivity of this sector and the difficulties of some countries in taking decisions in this regard and do share the view that these countries may expect some flexibility.

Nevertheless, we seek commitments that such measures will be gradually phased out where possible.

So-called "Development Round" of negotiations must have a truly development agenda that contains both, immediate actions and a realistic and flexible work programme. The draft Declaration before us is a good basis for reaching an agreement here in Doha. The new round that we expect to launch here in Doha shall be aimed at maximizing the benefits of the multilateral trading system for the developing and least-developed countries, as well as countries in transition and reducing poverty. We believe that this is a critical issue for making this Conference a success. What we all need is a political will and flexibility to ensure success.
