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KUWAIT

Statement by H.E. Mr Abdullah A. Al-Tawil
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At the outset, I would like to convey on behalf of the Government of the State of Kuwait my sincere gratitude to the Government of Mexico for the excellent organization of this Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO and for the hospitality and warm reception given to us since our arrival. I also extend my congratulations to the Chairman of the Fifth Ministerial Conference and the Bureau Deputies, and wish them success in their endeavour.

I would also like to highlight the efforts made by the Director-General of the WTO and the Chairman of the General Council and to congratulate them on their work. The State of Kuwait takes this opportunity to welcome Cambodia and Nepal as new WTO Members and expresses confidence that both will be able to contribute toward the strengthening of the global trading system and defend the WTO rules and disciplines.

We have taken important decisions at the Doha Conference, of which I recall the pertaining to access to non-agricultural products, negotiations of trade in services, TRIPS Agreement and public health, expand the negotiation on agriculture. In addition, we have taken decisions pertaining to implementation issues, special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries and the clarification of WTO rules.

Looking at the issues and decisions that were taken at the Doha Conference, we feel there is a need to work diligently on these issues because they are affecting a wide sector of people, especially in developing countries and the least developed countries, which are still facing some technical and administrative difficulties in implementing WTO Agreements. Therefore, we have to emphasize the need for more technical assistance and enough time in order for us to legislate the necessary laws for the proper implementation of WTO agreements with full transparency.

The Doha Conference affirmed that the aim of conducting negotiation on trade in services is to enhance the economic development for the trading partners and to the development of developing and least developed countries.

Consequently, we emphasize what has been cited in paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the GATS Agreement, which states that the liberalization process needs to take into consideration the goals of national policies and the level of development across the various sectors.

We are aware that the services sector is the most important area where developing countries and the least developed countries are still suffering from the weakness of their economic structure. Therefore, the required liberalization process needs to take into consideration the national interest of the countries involved; noting that the State of Kuwait is one of the countries that rely on energy as a

source of its national income. Hence, we suggest the Council for Trade on Services to find a just classification for energy-services sector.

We encouraged and fully supported the adoption of the decision on the TRIPS Agreement and public health. What WTO needs to affirm is the availability of affordable medicines to treat diseases. On this occasion, let me extend my gratitude to all Members for the efforts they have made to reach consensus on those outstanding matters that would send a positive signal to the world.

Furthermore, the differences in development's levels, technological and industrial progress between developed countries and other countries should be taken into consideration when conducting market access negotiation on non-agriculture and agriculture products. This insures that international trade plays its proper role in the development for economic integration between all countries. In the same direction, the new issues that had been adopted by the Singapore Conference: transparency in government procurement, trade facilitation, trade and competition and trade and investment requires further study. Therefore, no further burden to be added to the Member countries, especially that most developing and the least developed countries are still facing technical obstacles in implementing the Uruguay Agreements.

Kuwait, through its interaction with international community seeks the success of all efforts that lead to economic harmonization and positive integration of the world economy. Furthermore, Kuwait affirms the importance of speeding the accession of developing and the least developed countries to the World Trade Organization. Thus this Conference needs to put simplified and quick procedures for the accession of countries in order to realize the globalization of our Organization.

In conclusion, we are of the opinion that at this Ministerial Conference we should exercise our joint responsibilities, political wisdom, pragmatism and determination to achieve successful conclusion which will result in further strengthening and improvement of the multilateral trading system and bring benefits to all Member countries.
