

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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## DENMARK

Statement by H.E. Mr Birger Riis-Jorgensen  
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Speaking on behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark including Greenland and the Faroe Islands, I would like to thank the Government of Qatar and the city of Doha for hosting this historic event. My appreciation also goes to you Mr Chairman, to the Director-General of the WTO, Mr Moore, and to the Chairman of the General Council, Mr Harbinson, for guiding us through these negotiations and for providing a solid basis for our deliberations.

Today more than ever, the global economy needs a new round of trade negotiations in order to restore confidence and revive economic growth. It is important that the international community stand together to strengthen the multilateral trading system with the aim of improving living conditions worldwide.

Here in Doha, we thus have an historic opportunity to set aside short-run political considerations and set the pace for solid long-run solutions to help create worldwide sustainable growth. This, in turn, will help to pave the way for peace and prosperity for all – not just for some. We must seize this opportunity. If we fail to do so, we will all lose out.

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Our objective should be the launch of a *development round*. It should not be forgotten, that often, the poorest countries have not benefited enough from the international trading system.

Currently, developing countries are the hardest hit by the economic downturn. This underlines the need for a round with a clear focus on the needs of developing countries. In this process we must also take into account the special needs and concerns of indigenous populations as well as those of small and vulnerable economies.

The EU's "everything-but-arms-initiative" is an example of what is needed. We should all move forward along this line. Lowering the remaining barriers to exports from developing countries is a must. It requires opening up markets. And it requires lowering subsidies. This means fundamental changes for some sectors in the developed world, but it must be done. This will benefit us all in the long run.

It is, however, not easy for developing countries to make the first difficult steps into the global trading system. In general, the opening up of markets will facilitate development through

investment and production leading to economic growth. Those countries that have actively sought to participate in the global trading system have been more successful. Concrete assistance should be rendered to developing countries to enable them to fully benefit from the process of liberalization. In this respect, we find capacity building to be a key area.

Likewise, in the area of intellectual property rights, assistance must be rendered and flexibility must be shown for developing countries in their implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. The flexibility of the TRIPS Agreement must be fully utilized.

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Trade and investment are necessary – but not sufficient conditions for sustainable development.

Social protection, gender-conscious standards and environmental measures are key factors to ensuring sustainable development. The process of opening up of markets cannot be seen in isolation. It has to include concerns for environmental and social standards. Not as a means of protectionism by creating barriers to trade – but in order to give the necessary balance to the process of globalization and increasing economic interdependence. It is a challenge that we have to meet.

Denmark therefore warmly welcomes the initiative by ILO on the social dimension of globalization. Furthermore, we would welcome the participation of the WTO in this work.

Denmark would like to see a new round of global trade negotiations as a first leg of a "global deal". Another leg will be the UN Conference on Financing for Development. We should see our work here in the WTO in the context of the World Summit in Johannesburg on sustainable development.

One important factor for achieving sustainable development is facilitating the transfer of environmentally-friendly technologies to the developing world.

Denmark supports the preferential treatment for environmentally-friendly products and technologies. The use of various forms of eco-labelling could be a means to promoting this kind of thinking.

WTO thus needs to work on the establishing of clear relations between multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO rules. We also call for the establishment of more precise conditions for the use of the precautionary principle.

Furthermore, work is needed in order to clarify the relationship between preferential measures and the WTO rules of non-discrimination. It is our hope that advances can be made within this area during a new round.

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Another objective for the WTO is that of transparency. We need openness in trade policy matters. This applies to WTO as an organization as well as to the Member States. We stand to gain a lot by increased transparency and by further involvement of the public in trade policy matters. In this context, I should like to reiterate the proposal for establishing a consultative parliamentary body.

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At this Conference we welcome a number of new WTO Member countries. The conclusion of the negotiations on accession of several other countries – including China – is a very important step forward. Also we extend our warmest welcome to those countries. We hope to see negotiations concluded as soon as possible with a further number of applicant countries, including Russia.

Finally, I would like to repeat my most sincere hopes that this Ministerial Conference will produce the results the world is waiting for. Together we must show responsibility and leadership to secure this.

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