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## GEORGIA

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Tamar Beruchashvili  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

At the beginning, allow me take this opportunity and on behalf of my delegation express our sincere condolences on the tragic death of Mrs Anna Lindht, Foreign Minister of Sweden. We have lost a great European and good friend of Georgia.

I am honoured to join my colleagues today, to present my country's vision on a Development Round, to share with you our appreciation of its merits, and to warmly invite you to consider its principal goal: that countries taking part in the process of globalization must likewise enjoy its benefits. This process should also serve to advance national interests, as well as capitalize upon the unique individuality of each. Thus, global economic integration should accelerate economic growth and alleviate poverty.

Georgia, together with a group of newly acceded countries, has been actively involved in elaboration of the Doha Declaration and ongoing negotiation on Development Agenda.

In Doha, Georgia headed the coalition of newly acceded countries and managed to incorporate their position in Article 9 of the Ministerial Declaration that says that a wide range of obligations on market liberalization undertaken during the accession process should be given special attention. In addition Article 38 underlines a need of the technical assistance for newly acceded low-income countries in transition to ensure their full integration in multilateral trade system.

These very issues have underpinned the position of Georgia to obtain real and meaningful flexibility provisions in the process of further negotiations on Doha Development Agenda.

I want to stress that Georgia as a small, low-income economy facing all challenges of transition is strongly in favour of progressive, balanced and equitable liberalization and consider it as a key principle for globalization; however we have a number of concerns to highlight.

First, I would like to remind the Members that in Doha our Ministers have unanimously recognized the extensive market access commitments undertaken by recently acceded countries that often go far beyond those negotiated during the Uruguay Round. I would like to underline that Georgia undertook enormous commitments during accession negotiations that ensured very liberal market access conditions including agriculture. Georgia has no export subsidies, and does not maintain any trade distorting domestic support measures, in addition we bound 100 per cent of our tariffs.

Therefore, any measure towards further tariff liberalization, which represent only means to protect our domestic producers, could harmfully affect our economy, particularly agriculture.

We continue to express our strong expectation that these concerns would be adequately reflected in the new text of framework for modalities.

Second, Georgia is actively involved in tariff negotiations for non-agricultural products. We would seek the adequate compensation and acknowledgement of our excessive commitments and highly liberal tariff structure (total average 7.2 per cent, out of which around 5 per cent for non-agricultural goods). We are glad that some of the Members shared our approach that the countries which have already "paid" should not be taxed again, or should pay less, and therefore the "Swiss formula" of tariff reduction is more fair than a formula independent from initial tariff rate.

We are glad that the Geneva process, in spite of all obstructions and differences on a number of key issues, gives us an example of such an understanding. As a result the position of newly acceded countries on meaningful flexibility provisions has already been reflected in the framework for modalities for market access for non-agricultural products. We hope that this approach will be extended to the agricultural products as well, giving us lower tariff reductions, longer implementation period, right to use exemptions for Special Products and other flexible instruments in order to respond to countries' real developmental needs.

It should also be recognized that Georgia as well as other newly acceded countries are still in the process of fulfilling their accession obligations, and they hardly afford further market liberalization without possibility to carefully evaluate the results of steps already undertaken. As you are well aware, Georgia is not classified in the category of neither developing nor least-developed country, but in real sense, its macroeconomic parameters are much more lower than many WTO developing Members.

We have to remember that this "development" round is not just about "developing countries"; it is about global economic development and global governance. It concerns everyone. Therefore the outputs of this Round should support all member countries' economic development by means of a fair allocation of the burden of obligations undertaken.

Despite all challenges, Georgia does not limit its participation in negotiations by market access issues only. We strongly support establishment of multilateral system of notifications and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits. We also hope that the Cancún Declaration will give the green light to expand this system to other products as well. Georgia welcomes progress achieved in the field of TRIPS and public health, which on the one hand provides poor countries access to vital medicines and on the other hand gives a clear example of the best compromise.

We believe that Cancún is about the action needed to ensure that commitments and promises made in Doha are respected. Cancún is about outcomes. And to achieve those outcomes, it must be based on cooperation, not confrontation. The win-win principle on which the international trading system rests must be well demonstrated during these days.

Five minutes time-limit does not allow us to touch upon, all problems. However, I cannot leave out the issue of technical assistance and other supporting instruments of vital importance for my country.

In recognition of the fact that development policies are about the strategic allocation of scarce resources, great caution should be exercised in ensuring that the capacity-building programmes meet the real needs of the countries' development agenda.

The greatest challenge for the WTO will be to achieve the integration of new Members and developing economies into the multilateral trading system, and more broadly, into the global economy. Against this backdrop all Members should join forces to achieve this goal.

And finally, I would like to congratulate new Members that joined WTO after Doha: Armenia, Macedonia, Nepal and Cambodia, and wish them successful integration into the Organization.

Let me express our thanks and the words of our profound appreciation to the hosts of this Conference, to the Government of Mexico, which have created and provided excellent conditions and facilities for our productive work and fruitful discussions that, we hope, will ultimately ensure the successful accomplishment of our important tasks.

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