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UKRAINE

Statement by H.E. Mr Andrii Goncharuk
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(Speaking as an Observer)

Let me begin my statement by thanking our hosts, authorities of the State of Qatar, and the organizers of this Conference for their great commitment.

1. The Government of Ukraine considers the World Trade Organization to be a fundamental part of the architecture of international legal relations providing for the stable development of international trade and of the world economy as a whole. The WTO system grants to its Members wide-ranging trade and economic rules and a system of legal protection of economic interests. The presentation, strengthening and improvement of the WTO system are preconditions for the further foreseen and stable development of the world economy.
2. Ukraine, as an active participant in world trade, observes very attentively the process of broadening the scope of the WTO. We welcome the completion of negotiations on accessions announced at this Conference and believe that the new WTO Members will strengthen the multilateral system. We join with sincerity all countries of the world in their aim to the global WTO membership.
3. The process of negotiating documents to be approved by the Fourth Ministerial Conference has once again showed that participation in the WTO activities is a basis for the balanced economic development of all countries. WTO has become a leading factor in providing economic safety in the system of international economic relations. In the new conditions of globalization of political and economic processes WTO and its Members have ever greater responsibility in the preparation and adoption of common decisions, which would provide for mutual efforts to ensure the social and economic well-being of all countries and to prevent the threat of new conflicts on the world scale.
4. The integration of Ukraine, as of any other country in transition into a more open and rule-based multilateral trade system will provide for a new impulse in its economic development. The legal basis of the WTO Agreements regulating the trade aspects of agriculture, services, intellectual property and other areas, ensures for the dynamic economic development, which is crucially important for putting forward the economic reforms in Ukraine. Taking into account the geographical location of Ukraine in the centre of Europe, we also realize the importance of our participation in regional economic formations which supplement the multilateral trade liberalization process within the framework of WTO.
5. Let me briefly inform you about the latest trends in Ukraine's economic development and the WTO accession process.

During the last two years the Ukrainian economy grew considerably. For the first nine months of the current year, GDP was 9.3 per cent above the same period of the previous year. The comparable figures of industrial output and agricultural production are 16.6 per cent and 8.6 per cent respectively. The real incomes of the population were 8.6 per cent higher than during the same period a year earlier, while inflation grew only at 3.7 per cent compared to 21.6 per cent in the relevant period of the previous year.

6. The two meetings of the Working Party on Ukraine's Accession to the WTO that have taken place since the previous Ministerial Conference, showed significant progress in the harmonization of Ukrainian trade-related legislation with the WTO Agreements. We have also achieved considerable progress in our bilateral negotiations on market access: as of today, three protocols have been signed and a broad political agreement has been reached with a majority of Working Party members on the issues, which require mainly technical solutions.

7. To conclude, I would like to stress that Ukraine sincerely supports the necessity of further strengthening of WTO, the beginning of a new round of negotiations, and wishes to become a full member in this process. At the same time, we expect that, by itself, the discussion of problems of ensuring balanced development will become an integral part of the process of further world trade liberalization.
