STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Thank you, Chairperson, and our congratulations on your election. Our great appreciation goes to President Uhuru Kenyatta for his fine opening address and the warm welcome that we have had in Nairobi.

Also, our very best wishes to Director-General Azevêdo and our warmest welcome to our new member Kazakhstan, and soon the Republic of Liberia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan whose accession packages are being considered at this Ministerial Conference. We look forward to welcoming both nations to our WTO family.

This is a momentous Ministerial Conference, where we come together to commemorate the twentieth anniversary since the establishment of the WTO and significantly, the first Ministerial Conference to be held in Africa. The progress we achieved in Bali gave the momentum that the Membership yearned for to reignite the discussions in Geneva and we hope that a Nairobi package will be realized to continue these discussions.

For Brunei Darussalam, we have always strived to contribute to the multilateral trading system. Earlier this year, we have deposited the instrument of acceptance for the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement and at this Ministerial Conference, we have also submitted the instrument of acceptance for the Protocol of Amendment to insert the Trade Facilitation Agreement into the WTO Agreement.

We have had a few positive developments this year, among them, the recent Paris Agreement, a global achievement where all Parties are bound together in a single agreement on tackling climate change. We are confident that under your able leadership, Chair, we will realize a similar accomplishment that would continue giving the signal to the World that the WTO is still relevant.

Thank you.