

LITHUANIA
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LITHUANIA

Mr. Chairperson, Ministers, Dear representatives of member countries and observers, ladies and gentlemen

First of all, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the government of Kenya for hosting this ministerial conference. I would also like warmly welcome Kazakhstan and Seychelles participating for the first time after their accession in the WTO Ministerial Conference. Congratulations to Afghanistan and Liberia on their accessions.

While today in Nairobi we are still struggling for the meaningful outcome of the negotiations, we need to underline the importance of WTO as the guardian of the global trading system. The stability and predictability provided by the well-functioning multilateral trading system deserve more appreciation. And it should not be taken as granted. Respecting the WTO rules and implementing the WTO commitments, in particular, by key players in the world trade is, therefore, essential.

Two years ago in Bali the WTO Members succeeded to reach the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Its full implementation could provide more benefits for the world trade than possible outcome of NAMA and agriculture tariff negotiations combined. It is crucial for the credibility of the WTO not only to negotiate new agreements but also bring them into the work. Therefore, I would like to call upon all the WTO members who have not yet ratified the trade facilitation agreement, to intensify their internal procedures for this agreement to come into force.

Another significant achievement we reached yesterday - expansion of the Information Technology Agreement. The original and expanded ITA combined will cover a total of 18% of world trade in goods. It will have a major impact on all WTO members,

including the developing and least developed countries. It also confirms, how important it is to make WTO agreements up-to-date.

Looking into the future and in the current negotiating agenda, we need to make sure that major trade distortions are eliminated. On the other hand, all traders should contribute according to their role in global economy. I would like to underline that exports subsidies are not the only trade distortive measure in the area of export competition in agriculture. We have to deal with export credits, food aid and state trading enterprises with the same ambition.

We strongly believe that WTO will remain **the place** where international trade rules are created. Therefore, we have to make sure that WTO responds to trade realities. Let's stay committed for the tangible results!

Thank you.