

Statement
of Mr Mieczyslaw Nogaj, Director of Trade Policy Department,
Ministry of Development, Poland
at the plenary session of the WTO MC10 on 16th December 2015

Mr Chairman (Madam Chair),
Ministers
Ladies and Gentlemen

Poland, like other EU countries participates in this Conference to constructively contribute to the discussion and decisions of outmost importance for global economy and global trade. We recognize the positive role of open, rules based world trading system for the growth of our economies. We also see the need to continue work towards strengthening this system in order to address existing trade barriers and further contribute to the development of our countries and our citizens. A newly elected government in Poland is committed to the liberalization of trade within the WTO and strengthening the Organization as a guardian of the multilateral trading system.

However as it seems at the moment the possible outcome of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference may fall short of our expectations. After almost 15 years of negotiations we are still far away from reaching the comprehensive multilateral trade agreement. It is then a good moment to start the discussion on how we should proceed in the future. It is obvious that continuation of our work in the same manner, the so called “business as usual”, is a recipe for consecutive failure. We must look at our agenda in a realistic way and limit ourselves to the topics where we are able to deliver.

We should also not ignore the fact that the world economy has changed significantly since 2001, when we started the DDA negotiation. The share of services in global trade has been growing and recently reached the level of 40% of total value of global exchange. Due to the development of digital economy, e-commerce has become an important instrument of foreign trade. According to UNCTAD analysis global e-commerce market is now worth over 12 trillion Euro. Manufacturing processes have become more complex and spread among many countries. An average car produced today is assembled from parts and elements originating in 30 countries. The question of facilitating the movements of goods within this global supply chain is also a great challenge at present time. These new trends in international trade must be addressed by this Organization to answer the expectations of businesses. Otherwise the importance of WTO will be diminished.

The economic map of the world also has change in the last 15 years. New global players appeared in world economy. We should be aware of the fact that a proper balance in mutual benefits and obligations of all the WTO member states, reflecting the level of their development, must be found to reach successfully any multilateral trade agreements in the future.

I would like also to underline the importance of strengthening the existing mechanisms of the WTO, especially the improvement of the notification system. We should use the following months to build up an effective instrument for ensuring transparency and mutual

trust. We should also undertake the work on improvement of the WTO Dispute Settlement system, which Poland considers a cornerstone of this organization.

Foreign trade is an important instrument in strengthening the GDP growth in my country. It was true during the economic crisis after 2008 and it is true now. Therefore, we note with great concern the increased number of trade restriction measures introduced recently, also by countries which just recently joined this organization. This is why Poland is ready to cooperate with all WTO member states to oppose the attempts to weaken the WTO as guarantor of the multilateral trading system. For this purpose we all should make every effort to preserve the negotiating function of the WTO by establishing a realistic post-Nairobi work program.

I would like to congratulate the Republic of Liberia and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of their accession to the WTO. We hope that countries which are still negotiating their accession will join us soon.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Kenyan government for organizing this Conference. I really hope that it will be possible to give a strong impetus for the WTO work for 2016 and beyond.

Thank you for your kind attention.