

Slovak Republic statement

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Republic to the WTO

Nairobi – Plenary of the 10th WTO Ministerial conference

Excellences, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to express my sincere gratitude to our host for the excellent organization of the 10th Ministerial Conference.

Stable, predictable and transparent multilateral trading system based on WTO rules has always played an instrumental role for the development of the Slovak economy, which is highly dependent on foreign trade and access to raw materials and energy resources.

Slovakia, as a founding member of this organisation, and today as a Member of the EU, has been traditionally supporting the WTO as a key forum for trade negotiations, for eliminating trade barriers, for establishing international trade rules, for monitoring trade flows and fair trade as well as for settling trade disputes. We strongly supported ambitious and comprehensive outcome of the DDA negotiations.

Today, we are meeting here, yet another time, to find a possible solution to DDA saga. Proposed package is modest to say at least and differences in positions and priorities of Member States remain substantial.

In this light, we believe, it is time to recalibrate our future work program,

what does not mean to surrender any of its principal components. However, to seek approaches leading to real progress seems to be inevitable. The world economy and global trading system has changed significantly since 2001. Existing WTO rules should be further developed and improved in order to better address the reality and needs of the current world trade. We should therefore look beyond the DDA mandate and should also tackle such important elements related to global trade as digital economy and e-commerce, investments, export restrictions or other emerging issues not addressed within the WTO framework yet.

Active and constructive participation and strong sense of responsibility is needed from all WTO Members States, reflecting their respective positions in the world economy and their different capacities to contribute to the system.

We believe our collective wisdom will help us to agree on such a post-Nairobi working program that will preserve WTO as a modern and functioning international organization/forum for developing, monitoring and enforcing global trading rules. Failure is not an option!

Thank you for your attention.