



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة الاقتصاد

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Statement of the United Arab Emirates

By

HE Abdulla Al Saleh

Vice - Minister of Economy



Your Excellency Minister Susana Malcorra , Chairperson of the MC11,

Mr. Director General of the WTO,

Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At first, I would like to join all my colleagues Ministers and heads of delegations in extending our warm thanks to the people and the Government of the Republic of Argentina for hosting this 11th Ministerial conference of the WTO, and the WTO Director General and his entire team for the excellent and professional organization of this important gathering.

Madame Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have repeated it enough, although I think it cannot be ever said enough, that the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) has played, and still plays, a significant role in opening up borders to facilitate international trade and investment within a rule-based system, and providing a credible and solid mechanism to settle trade disputes. So why, the UAE would like to reiterate, from this podium, that its commitment and support to the WTO is strong and unwavering.

Concomitantly, we should continue to place the development dimension at the core of our negotiations programme. Without this dimension, the WTO would not be able to deliver on the many topics incorporated into its agenda and the shifting of trade negotiations to other spheres and fora will become an ever great risk for all of us.



Madame Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

The UAE shares the widely accepted view that the 11th Ministerial Conference should constitute an occasion to keep momentum of the achievements realized so far in the WTO, while maintaining a realistic forward-looking will to agree on further topics here in Buenos Aires.

In this respect, allow me to summarize the position of the United Arab Emirates on some of the main issues tabled for negotiation.

Regarding Public Stockholding for food security purposes, the UAE support the option to broaden the Bali Decision on Public stockholding to include all developing country members. We see this option gives much policy space while maintaining assurance for others that the programme will not undermine domestic support disciplines.

Concerning Export restriction, the UAE call for more transparency in the use of agricultural export prohibitions or restrictions. Consumers in food-importing countries, such as the UAE, can be adversely affected by these measures, especially at times of sudden spikes in the international prices for food and agricultural goods.

About Fisheries subsidies, the UAE want to emphasize the need to provide for policy space for developing countries such as my country to enhance the development of their fisheries sector, while promoting the development of sustainable fishing resources.

As regards NAMA, the UAE see that this Conference should deliver as a realistic outcome a work programme for the continuation of the reform process in this area.

In respect of Services, the UAE considers that it is for each government to decide on the level of liberalization proportionate with its level of development.



Regarding domestic regulation negotiations, the UAE emphasize that developing country members should keep their right to regulate in accordance with their development policy objectives. Concerning trade facilitation in services; we see that we can move forward on the negotiation track of provisions regulating such topic.

With regards to Electronic Commerce and Investment facilitation, the UAE believe that at this stage we cannot engage in discussions with negotiation perspective, and priority should be given to identifying and defining what topics and parameters should be covered by these concepts. Regarding E-commerce, the UAE supports the extension of the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions.

Madame Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, I wish our negotiations will bring about the desired outcomes that will guide our trade and economic policies over the next years. We expect balanced outcomes that will improve trade opportunities and disciplines for all the WTO Members.

The UAE are very aware of the various challenges we must overcome in order to achieve more in the future. This is why we have to make sure that we all work in symbiosis in order to come up with balanced results in the different areas of negotiation.

Thank you.