



Statement by

HE Mr. Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani

Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism of the Kingdom of Bahrain

At the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization

Buenos Aires, 10-13 December 2017

Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

I am honored to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain at the WTO Ministerial Conference in the beautiful and historic city of Buenos Aires.

I am also greatly honored to convey the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, as well as the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain to H.E. President Mauricio Macri, the Government, and the people of Argentina, and to commend their kind hospitality and the excellent organization of this important Ministerial Conference.

In a year when the GATT marks its 70th anniversary, members have an opportunity at this meeting to send a clear message about the pivotal role embodied in the World Trade Organization for the solid maintenance and support for the multilateral trade system, the sustained expansion of world trade, and the economic and social development of developing and least-developed countries.

Together, we must build on the progress made since the Nairobi Ministerial; including the Trade Facilitation Agreement coming into force on the 22nd of February 2017.

As a founding member of the WTO and a strong supporter of open global trade, the Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to the success of this Conference and the continued strength of this Organization. We take special interest in issues of vital interest to developing countries, LDCs, Small Island Developing States, and Net Food Importing Countries (NFICs).

Such areas also include food security measures, transparency in food export restrictions, fisheries preservation disciplines, SMEs enhancement measures, as well as other pending files of the DDA.



As we look forward into the future, we must harness the energy of the digital age and the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” to create an open and fair trading environment with development and inclusiveness at its core. We must equally foster the growth of MSMEs as they are the future capacity for trade expansion and creation of employment.

Inclusive trade through the World Trade Organization has long been recognized as a catalyst for the economic growth and poverty reduction that contribute to the promotion of sustainable development both by the UN 2030 Agenda and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals.

Madame Chairperson,

I take this opportunity to renew our delegation’s firm support for the Arab countries currently negotiating their accession to the WTO and state our encouragement by the progress that has been made in their regard so far. We also reiterate our support for according WTO observer status to The League of Arab States, one of the most prominent regional Intergovernmental Organizations in the world.

Before concluding, Madame Chairperson, allow me to express our gratitude for your able guidance in chairing the Ministerial Conference, and to the Government and People of Argentina for the hospitality enjoyed by all our conference participants.

Thank you.