

Statement by the Danish State Secretary for Trade Susanne Hyldelund
at the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires December 10th 2017

Allow me first to thank the government of Argentina for hosting this ministerial conference and to congratulate Madam Susanna Malcorra and her Vice Chairs for chairing the conference in such an excellent way.

Denmark fundamentally believes that trade under globally agreed rules generates growth, prosperity and peaceful coexistence.

The WTO provides an ***indispensable legal system*** for conducting global trade in a fair manner. It also provides a ***forum for dialogue on the rights and obligations*** of members. And finally, the WTO should be at the ***center for negotiating new trade rules.*** These three core functions of *our* World Trade Organization are crucial for securing predictable and transparent global trade to the benefit of all Members.

However, negotiations leading up to this 11th Ministerial Conference have been disappointing. We should never forget that trade is a glue binding countries together. And being together in a system guided by fairness and predictability leads to a more stable and secure world. We must not lose sight of this, when

we discuss concrete proposals on the table. That is why the EU has tirelessly tabled relevant drafts in all negotiation areas.

Therefore, it is important that the WTO remains an organization fit for purpose. It must show itself capable of moving forward in step with the developments of modern trade. This implies an ability to deal with subjects like e-commerce, investment facilitation and good regulatory practices, both in services and non-tariff measures.

Trade has been an essential part of the development of the Danish society and state. Our commitment to global trade is at the heart of our trade policy. On behalf of the Danish government, I want to send a strong message that we remain committed to the multilateral trading system

It is our hope that the MC11 will reach a good outcome to the benefit of us all. It is possible, and the WTO can deliver – if Members commit.

Let me finish by quoting Madam Malcorra at the WTO Public Forum in Geneva in October: *“As imperfect as the current system might be, we need the system, we need to find ways together to move forward and recommit to this collective effort”*. Denmark fully agrees – thank you!