



*Permanent Mission of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
Commercial Office
Geneva*



ECS
التمثيل التجاري المصري
Egyptian Commercial Service

Statement
H.E. Eng. Tarek Kabil
Minister of Trade and Industry
WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference
Plenary Session
Bueno Aires – Argentina
Monday, 11 December 2017 – 14h30

Madam Chair, Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to join the “WTO Eleventh Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires”. Allow me *Madam Chair* to express my gratitude to the government of Argentina for hosting this conference and for the warm welcome and hospitality, which we received since our arrival.

At the outset, I would like to restate that Egypt deeply believes that strengthening the *Multilateral Trading System* is in the interest of all WTO Member States.

As you may know, since our last Ministerial, Egypt implemented aggressive economic reforms, including massive national investment in infrastructure, floating the national currency, and slashing subsidies, supported by new Trade and Investment policies, aiming at stimulating the economy, and better integrating in the world market. All these reforms will never meet its ultimate objective without strong, rule-based Multilateral Trading System.

Our meeting today comes in a very existential moment, where after two successful Ministerial Conferences there is a strong threat to the nature of outcome this time.

During the past few months, there were intensive negotiations in Geneva shaped with many proposals and discussions. This fact is a strong proof that there is a will to reinvigorate the negotiating function of the WTO, and belief in the role of the WTO as the cornerstone of the Multilateral Trading System. Unfortunately, however, huge divergences remains.



*Permanent Mission of the
Arab Republic of Egypt
Commercial Office
Geneva*



ECS
التمثيل التجاري المصري
Egyptian Commercial Service

Madam Chair,

Egypt strongly believes that the only way to achieve success is through balance and fairness, having said so, and to face today's challenge, our vision encompasses the following:

- We need to maintain the centrality of development in any outcome.
- We need to strike balance between traditional negotiating issues in the WTO that must be prioritized in our negotiation, and the issues that have been coming to the forefront lately.
- We need to give clear directions on our future work.

Having said so, Egypt views on the contours of MC11 outcome:

- Real reform in inherited agriculture distortions,
- Fisheries outcome to be related ONLY to marine wild capture;
- And finally any future work on new issues must remain within informal discussions.

Let me conclude, with an ancient Egyptian saying carved on our temples walls:

“A house has the character of the man who lives in it”.

Excellences, we have a shared responsibility today to send a strong message that our Multilateral Trade House is still characterized by a functioning negotiating pillar that delivers meaningful, responsible, and credible results on one hand, and shapes the future work on the other hand.

Thank You.