



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**ADDRESS BY MR TUGOMIR MAJDAK, STATE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE**

at the WTO MC 11, Buenos Aires, Argentina

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam President, Hounorable Director General,

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Madame Chair/Mr Chairman

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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Dear Colleagues

Today I have the pleasure to address the plenary session on behalf of the Republic of Croatia.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our host, the Argentinian Government for organizing this Ministerial as well as for their hospitality.

The MC 11 is a great opportunity to explore ways in which multilateral trade and the WTO can increase prosperity of our citizens.

We are aware that the multilateral trade system has been facing many challenges. Therefore, our goal should be to achieve a more credible system which will be able to promote economic growth, job creation, development and inclusivity.

Agriculture is important for the majority of Members. Croatia strongly supports an outcome which would enhance trade, prevent distortive measures and respond to the needs of ensuring food security purposes in vulnerable economies. We regret that so far, we have not made progress in finding responses to some of key negotiating issues and hope for convergence. We still have faith in reaching a positive outcome here ... at the same time, we express our readiness to continue our common work after Buenos Aires.

We would equally support a solution that would enable the implementation of commitments under the Agenda for Sustainable Development. We strongly support solutions for eliminating subsidies for IUU fishing, as well as dealing with overfishing and overcapacity.

E-commerce has been included on the WTO agenda since 1998. It is an important tool for future global trade and development and therefore we hope it would be adequately reflected in the post MC 11 period.

We have always seen SMEs as a building block of trade. The initiative to facilitate SMEs access to international trade is very much welcome.

International trade and investment are engines of economic growth and consequently it is vital that trade policies be widely inclusive. Therefore we strongly support women's economic empowerment and their increased participation in national and international trade.

Dear colleagues, we have heard that no substantial progress has been achieved in the past two days in Buenos Aires. In fact on some of issues the gap is even wider than in Geneva and we should be reflecting deeply on our rights and responsibilities towards the WTO and the multilateral trading system.

Looking after our legitimate rights of taking care of our national trade interests does not exclude looking after the ones in the international multilateral context.

We have been given an opportunity to reflect on challenges and to provide a vision on how the future multilateral trade should look like.

Thank you.