



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Enggartiasto Lukita
Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia
At the Plenary Session of the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference
Buenos Aires – Argentina, 11 December 2017**

**Madam Chair of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference,
Vice-Chairs of the Conference,
Mr. Director General,
Fellow Ministers,
Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to you, Madam Chair, as well as the Government and the people of Argentina, for the generous hospitality extended to us, and the excellent arrangements made to host this Ministerial Conference.

We would also like to thank the WTO Director-General, Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, for his tireless efforts and hard work to move the negotiations forward in Geneva.

**Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Indonesia attaches high importance to the open, predictable, rules-based multilateral trading system. The Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO has provided a solid ground for this organization to undertake its functions to facilitate all Members to reap the benefits of a multilateral trading system. However, the double edge challenge facing the organization these days is obvious, too; that is, completing the unfinished business and responding to a new reality.

In this regard, Indonesia wishes to recall the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration, upon which all Members have committed to advance the negotiation on the remaining

Doha issues, in particular to achieve concrete outcomes on a permanent solution for Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes and on Special Safeguard Mechanism, at this Ministerial Conference. Members have also committed to put the centrality of development and the importance of the special and differential treatment at the core of this work.

Despite those strong written commitments, it is quite regrettable that we are not there yet to deliver on what we have agreed in Nairobi. This has only further weakened confidence in the WTO at a time when we ought to strengthen it by completing the long-overdue work while addressing new realities that are not included in the DDA.

Hence, Indonesia calls on all Members to work harder and make the best use of available time here at the MC-11 to advance the discussions on what we had agreed in Nairobi.

**Madam Chair,
Fellow Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,**

In moving forwards, Members need to bring the Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 or SDGs into the equation.

Indonesia believes that trade has been and will continue to be the main engine of inclusive growth, development and poverty reduction. And in this respect, the Government of Indonesia remains firm to put agriculture and fisheries subsidies as priorities in the WTO's works, considering their strategic roles in economic development, as the main sources of livelihood for most Indonesian people, and their critical roles in responding to the challenges of food security, poverty alleviation and rural development. The strengthening of agriculture and fisheries sectors on one hand, and the achievement of the SDGs on the other hand, will have a re-enforcing effect.

Indonesia is of the view that development should remain at the centre of our work. Strengthening and improving participation of developing countries, including LDCs, in the multilateral trading system, would be very critical and offer new opportunities to business as standards of living of our people around the globe improved.

Indonesia also wishes to underscore the importance of WTO regular bodies in overseeing the implementation of WTO Agreements, as well as in preventing and resolving disputes. The political guidance that would be agreed at this Ministerial Conference should be translated into a “to-do list” which is comprehensive yet practical to further strengthen the functioning of these bodies.

Finally, I hope that we can leave Buenos Aires with Members committing to safeguarding and strengthening the multilateral trading system with a clear path forward for our future work.

Thank you

Minister of Trade, Indonesia
Enggartiaso Lukita