

Statement by

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**(Mr./Madam) Chairperson;
Excellences;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Argentina for hosting this high level Conference. My thanks also goes to the Director-General of the WTO and his colleagues in the Secretariat for organizing this important event.

The effective role of trade in global economic growth and development is evident. However, it would be desirable if the benefits of trade be shared equally by all countries as inclusive as possible, so that all societies feel they are a part of the multilateral trading system. Such positive feelings could trigger further global cooperation.

We believe that most of the world economic challenges should be solved by relying on the multilateral policies. And the prerequisites for reaching the solutions for those challenges are mutual trust, transparency, empathy, and a common vision for the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Twenty-two years ago, the Iranian Government presented its application for the accession to the WTO in order to create more favorable conditions for the national economy and be engaged proactively in the world economy. Unfortunately, the application has never received an appropriate response based on the principles that the WTO was built upon, and constantly suffered from politicization and double-standards from the part of a few countries. In 2005, my Government enjoyed observer status, in 2009 submitted its

Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR), and in 2011 presented written replies to about 700 related questions. But again the process of Iran's accession did not go through its natural course and, in spite of all efforts, no progress has been made.

I would like to take the opportunity and reiterate that Iran is fully prepared to begin negotiations with the interested Member States in the context of the working party, based on the WTO rules and procedures. As the largest non-WTO member economy, Iran's full membership will be a win-win situation for all.

We thank the majority of the Member States for their invaluable supports in the past and hope that the Director-General will do his utmost efforts to advance this process and convene the meeting of the working party in the near future. We believe that by acceding non-member countries, the WTO will become truly a universal organization.

I thank you all.