

**Statement of Mr. Octavian CALMIC,
Deputy Prime-minister, Minister of Economy and Infrastructure,
Delegation of the Republic of Moldova**

11 December 2017

*Plenary session, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Room Pacifico A, Hilton Hotel,
Agenda item „Overview of Activities of the WTO”,
(11th WTO Ministerial Conference, Buenos-Aires,)*

**Dear Chair, Minister Susana Malcorra,
Mr. Director General Roberto-Azevedo,
Vice-Chairs, Chairman of the General Council,
Esteemed delegates,**

From the outset, I would like to extend my profound appreciation to the Government of Argentina for the hospitality and sincere gratitude to the WTO Secretariat for their efforts in organizing the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova is honored to participate and to continue contributing in our endeavor of achieving a successful Ministerial for the benefit of the multilateral trading system.

Dear colleagues,

The value of this traditional Ministerial Conference resides in what the WTO family is able to deliver to the worlds' nations – this is the reason why all of us are here in this beautiful city of Buenos Aires. I do express my hope that the Buenos Aires Ministerial will remain in peoples' minds as an acknowledgement that peace, commerce, and honest friendship should guide us in our common desire to develop our countries and to offer multilateral opportunities for job creation and poverty alleviation.

The Republic of Moldova has a pragmatic, holistic and multilateral approach in the liberalization of the international trading system. Being de facto a developing country, the Republic of Moldova has undertaken extensive commitments of a developed country, in the course of 16 years of its membership to the WTO family and my country has duly implemented all of the legal provisions stipulated in Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Declarations.

Following the above, let me briefly share with you Moldova's experience that resulted from our participation in the multilateral trading system and the implementation of WTO Agreements. Emphasizing our recent achievements, I am very pleased to announce that the Republic of Moldova has achieved considerable progress in the last year on reducing trade barriers and facilitating trade through the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and Government Procurement Agreement.

Today, I strongly encourage all WTO members to consolidate the sectorial approach and to find convergence on certain trade issues, such as agriculture sector, hoping to obtain an outcome for domestic support and public stockholding for food security, fisheries subsidies rules, special and differential treatment, trade remedies tools, domestic regulations on services, gender and trade, MSMEs, investment facilitation and to offer a perspective for the regulation of Electronic commerce services in order to narrow the gap between developed, developing and least developed countries.

We can therefore encourage members to start by digging deeper into each of these issues in order to find ways in which facilitation solutions could be found at the international level with a multilateral outcome.

I believe that there is a need for more flexibility in following the needs of the small and vulnerable countries by reinforcing the role of the SMEs and MSMEs in the global value chains.

The Republic of Moldova fully supports the efforts of Belarus and Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the WTO. We strongly believe that WTO accession process contributes further to the achievement of universality and higher trade liberalization, which represent strategic priorities for this member driven organization.

Concluding, I would like to state that the Republic of Moldova is committed to work with other WTO Members towards a successful 11th Ministerial Conference, and we strongly encourage all delegations at this Conference to give the clearest possible directions for our future work in further liberalizing trade and strengthening the multilateral trade system, especially in the post-Buenos Aires period, which may represent a new era for the WTO disciplines and platforms of negotiations.

On this note, allow me to wish all of us fruitful discussions and a flexible approach in addressing the existent issues.

Thank you Madam Chairperson!