

## **MC XI BUENOS AIRES**

### **STATEMENT**

#### **MONTENEGRO**

**Head of Delegation**

**Ambassador Zorica Maric Djordjevic**

**December 12, 2017      10:50 h**

**On Behalf of Montenegro, I would first like to extend my Government's deep appreciation to Argentina and its people for the warm hospitality. Montenegro commends Chairperson Susana Malcorra for demonstrated accomplishments in successful organization of the WTO XI Ministerial Conference, first ever to be held in the Latin American region. In addition, Montenegro welcomes the accessions by Afghanistan and Liberia in 2016 and remains committed to supporting further expanding the Organization's membership.**

**Madam Chair, My Government reaffirms the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO. We underline the role that trade can play in the promotion of sustainable development and alleviation of poverty as envisaged in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We recall the successful WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali 2013 and Nairobi in 2015 and welcome the ongoing efforts to fully implement Decisions taken by our ministers.**

**Montenegro, itself a recently acceded WTO Member, fulfills its membership commitments and obligations with great seriousness and dedication. We have ratified the TFA in 2016 and the Protocol Amending the Agreement on TRIPs /Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property rights/. Montenegro was among the first members to ratify and submit modifications of the schedule necessary to implement the tariff elimination measures contained in the Expanded ITA Declaration. For a small country like Montenegro, which relies on an open trading system, these agreements are an important engine for economic growth. In addition, Montenegro has maintained economic success, being one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. We have experienced the increase in**

**trade and have further deepened our trade relations with the European Union and regional partners.**

**Technical assistance provided by the WTO Secretariat (ITTC and its donor partners) has been crucial in supporting Montenegro in its efforts to contribute to this organization as an active and effective WTO Member. This has helped to improve Montenegro's compliance with notification obligations and to foster the capacity of our Administration to engage in the work of regular bodies of the WTO. Montenegro is looking forward to its First Trade Policy review in April 2018 and a constructive dialogue with all member states.**

**As the international trading environment continues to evolve Montenegro remains actively engaged in the work that advances effective functioning of the WTO. In this regard, we note with concern the lack of progress in our negotiations since the last Ministerial. Montenegro is open to new ideas and fresh approaches that are relevant and responsive to the needs of all Members of the Organization aiming towards pragmatic outcomes. This includes new thematic issues: digital economy and e-commerce, MSMEs, investment facilitation for development and more robust economic empowerment of women.**

**Before closing, I reaffirm Montenegro's commitment to contribute constructively to the full success of the MC XI in Buenos Aires and express our confidence in MC Chair Susana Malcorra and the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo. We call on all Members to safeguard the integrity of the open, rules-based multilateral system embodied in the WTO.**

**ZMDj**