



STATEMENT

OF

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

11TH SESSION OF THE WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA,

10 – 13 DECEMBER 2017

Madam Chairperson

Director-General of the WTO

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished delegates

On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Government and the people of Argentine Republic for hosting this 11th WTO Ministerial Conference and for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Madam Chair,

We trust in your able leadership and wisdom to steer the MC11 to a successful outcome.

My delegation commends the Director-General of the WTO Roberto Azevedo and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts in preparing for this Conference.

Madam Chair

Multilateral rule making and market opening based on consensus is the essential foothold for balanced and equitable outcomes for economic development and prosperity.

We must all stand in solidarity to ensure that the WTO remains the only credible global trade rule-making body and to send a strong signal that multilateralism and the WTO should prevail as the premier “edifice” of global development.

My delegation reaffirms its strong and unequivocal commitment in the work of the WTO.

Madam Chair

It is unfortunate that we are not living up to our pledges on the Doha Development Agenda.

The paradigm of development agreed in Doha is being challenged, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver on the development agenda.

This can be evidenced by limited, if not absence of achievements on development issues.

Madam Chair

Given the state of play in the negotiations in Geneva, we have not come to Buenos Aires with high expectations.

Nonetheless, my delegation believes that here in Buenos Aires we can achieve a mixed outcome, including some agreed decisions and a set of proposals to be pursued under the post MC11 work programs.

Madam Chair

For the MC11, Mauritius would like to emphasize the following:

- The development dimension of trade should continue to be the main focus in the WTO negotiations;
- The fisheries subsidies disciplines should not impede the ability of Ocean states and SIDS, like Mauritius, to develop and diversify their fisheries sector
- There is need to support and scale up trade-related capacity building for developing countries, including the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- We call for a substantial reduction of the trade subsidies provided by developed countries to the agricultural sector

- We urge members to consider positively the proposals on Special and Differential Treatment, which has been long overdue, and to operationalise the monitoring mechanism;
- There should be necessary flexibilities for Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs);
- We support a permanent solution with respect to the Stockholding Programme for Agriculture, and a way forward to address the issue of Special Safeguard Mechanism;
- Mauritius proposes that the Work Programme for Small and Vulnerable Economies should be reinvigorated to more precisely address the challenges and needs of SVEs in their efforts to reduce trade costs and to ensure their integration into GVCs and in the multilateral trading system;
- We are open to the WTO undertaking socio-economic assessment of issues such as e-commerce, trade and climate change, MSMEs and investment facilitation for informed discussions.
- My delegation reiterates our call to adopt customised provisions, specifically catering for the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and our request for the recognition of SIDS as a specific category at the WTO.

Madam Chair

Buenos Aires is a valuable opportunity for introspection, to reflect on how multilateralism should be framed in order to effectively respond to the expectations of a diverse range of economic stakeholders, and to deliver meaningful, balanced and inclusive outcomes for all.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

