

**Statement by Stepan Kubiv, the First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine –  
Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine**  
at the Plenary Session of 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference

*Buenos Aires, 12 December 2017*

Madame Chair,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of Ukraine, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Argentine Republic for a warm and hospitable welcome extended to the Conference's delegates.

Ukraine remains strongly committed to the multilateral trading system and supports Members' efforts to improve the existing trade rules and to develop new ones.

Ukraine believes that it is extremely important to improve the disciplines on domestic support in agriculture and to prevent the use of trade-distorting measures.

Differences in approaches to certain issues are certainly a challenge for our community, but Members have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to find mutually acceptable solutions and achieve their goals for development of the world trade.

We believe that further liberalization and improvement of trade rules and disciplines will contribute to "leveling the playing field" between the WTO founding Members and Members, which have acceded under Article XII of the WTO Agreement.

Equally important challenge for Members is to ensure the proper implementation of commitments and compliance with provisions of the WTO agreements.

Unfortunately, we have recently witnessed tendency towards the introduction of numerous trade restrictive measures by some Members.

We would like to urge Members to refrain from applying new trade restrictive measures, as well as to remove the existing ones, which may not be justified by the WTO rules.

In this regard, the role of the WTO dispute settlement system is of paramount importance. For many years this system has been an effective tool for resolution of trade disputes, and it is rightfully called "the jewel in the crown of the WTO".

Ukraine calls upon all Members to do their utmost in order to ensure the proper functioning of the dispute settlement system as the most efficient international dispute settlement mechanism.

Despite the well-known external challenges, Ukraine continues, persistently and decisively, implementing extensive and comprehensive reforms in all areas of public life.

The WTO rules are an additional incentive for the implementation of internal reforms. Ukraine became a party to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement in 2016. Since then Ukraine has introduced an up-to-date system of transparent electronic government procurement ProZorro and initiated a pilot project to create an international portal under the ProZorro Go-Global initiative.

We ratified the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation in 2015. And currently the Government of Ukraine is taking measures to deregulate foreign trade, establish an efficient "single window" and improve the business climate.

We must do our best to make this Conference a step forward in strengthening the multilateral trading system – in the interests of growth, development, job creation, raising living standards in the world and ensuring the optimal use of the world's resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development.

Thank you.