

## PLENARY STATEMENT

### **BY THE H.E. MR. TRAN QUOC KHANH, VICE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF VIETNAM AT THE 11<sup>TH</sup> WTO MINISTERIAL MEETING 10-13/12/2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

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*Mr. Chairman,  
Ministers,  
Ladies and gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to thank for the excellent efforts exerted by the Government of Argentina in hosting this 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires. I also thank for the warm hospitality of the people of Argentina extended to me and the Vietnamese delegation as well.

Since the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in 2015, the world has witnessed many significant changes. The negotiation and signing of the free trade agreements and regional trade agreements have been accelerated. The populism and trade protectionism particularly have come back and remain ever strong, posing implicit risks to the multilateral trading system and the international trade.

Meanwhile, despite tireless efforts of Members and the WTO Director-General himself, what we have achieved during the course of negotiation of the DDA issues remains limited. The outcomes even agreed by Ministers in Bali and Nairobi have not been effectively realized. This is a fact that triggers a question “what is impeding us in seeking and implementing a balanced deal that can work for all the WTO Members?”

For the last decades, what the WTO has done to the international trade has been undeniable. However, given what has been happening, we should admit in a candid manner that the multilateral trading system has a number of shortcomings which makes it difficult to adapt to the changes of the era we are living. Therefore, it is essential for the WTO Members to define causes and propose workable solutions to help the WTO further improve its efficiency so that the organization is not only an efficient negotiation forum but a credible watchdog in maintaining and ensuring the global fair trade.

In this regard, we are of the view that the WTO Members should exert all-out efforts in Buenos Aires to show the necessary flexibilities to reach a positive outcome, setting a good basis to solve the outstanding issues in the coming time. Without the efforts of all the Members, the MC 11 may founder, not only sending a negative signal not only to the multilateral trading system but affecting the faint recovery of the world economy.

Viet Nam affirms its solid and consistent commitments to the multilateral trading system and the WTO as well. We are willing to work and stand shoulder by shoulder with other WTO Members to solve the outstanding issues in our capacity. In

the APEC Leaders' Week held in Da Nang, Viet Nam last month, we were proud to make contribution to the delivery of the APEC Leaders' Statement that affirms the APEC Leaders' commitment to work together to improve the functioning of the WTO including its negotiating, monitoring, and dispute settlement functions, to adequately address challenges facing the system, bringing benefits to all of our people and businesses.

*Mr. Chairman,  
Ministers,*

In addition to strengthening the WTO's functioning towards a solid organization, we believe that the expansion of WTO membership is very meaningful for the multilateral trading system, especially at this moment. Having said that, Viet Nam would like to support Belarus to conclude its negotiation for the WTO accession at the soonest and to be recognized as the market economy without a transitional period.

Lastly, we do hope that this Ministerial Conference will achieve important outcomes, creating a basis to further accelerate the WTO's negotiations and implement its commitments and regulations, bringing about great and practical benefits for the development of all Members.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen for your attention./.

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