

## **Trinidad and Tobago Statement -Accession of Yemen**

Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, today, I take the opportunity, today to join the numerous expressions of congratulations that went before, welcoming Yemen into the fold of the WTO.

The accession of this country, which originally applied for membership back in April 2000, in our view represents a useful addition to the membership, in general, and to the LDC grouping in particular. This event is not only a positive for the WTO but should inspire us to find a solution to the challenge facing us, here in Bali during this week.

We do note that Yemen's accession package includes wide ranging commitments governing laws and measures to ensure that its trade regime conforms with WTO rules. Further we do recognize that the commitments impact on such areas as:

- The functioning of state enterprises
- Trading rights
- Other duties and charges
- Elimination of quantitative
- Adjustment to fees and charges by government
- Tariff bindings and
- intellectual property

Mr Chairman, Government of Trinidad and Tobago can identify with the aspirations of the Government of Yemen as they move to improve the livelihood and well being of its citizenry.

Taking an objective look at the accession experience of this member, which took some 13 years to materialize, it seems blatantly clear notwithstanding the decision taken at a previous Ministerial Conference to improve the accession process for LDCs, that the WTO body must continue to review the accession process to simplify it and make it less onerous and more efficient, particularly for the weaker acceding members.

We therefore wish Yemen a smooth and successful transition into the membership and to convey Trinidad and Tobago's willingness to discuss how we may cooperate with the member in areas of common interest with a view to attaining our mutual goals and fulfilling individual aspirations.

In closing, I do wish to offer hearty congratulations to the delegation of Yemen on this accomplishment.

I thank you