



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة الإقتصاد

**World trade organisation 9th ministerial conference  
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**Statement of the United Arab Emirates by  
HE. Mr. Sultan Bin Saeed AL Mansouri  
Minister of Economy .**

**Good afternoon**

**Your Excellency , chairman of the MC9**

**Mr. Director General of the WTO**

**Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegations.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**AI SALAMU ALAIKUM WRAHMATO ALLAH WABARAKATUH**

Allow me at the outset, on behalf of my government, to thank the gracious people and government of The Republic of Indonesia for hosting this very important ministerial conference. The hospitality by which we were received is testament to the generous nature that we all know too well of this sisterly country. I would also like to thank the WTO secretariat for preparing the documents before us today, a huge task that you all need to be commended for.

It is my pleasure Mr. Chairman to congratulate you and the vice chairpersons for your election to preside over this very important ministerial conference in the beautiful city of Bali. We are fully confident of your, and the vice chairpersons, wisdom and leadership in steering the discussions and the works of our meetings. You have our full support, and we look forward to work closely and constructively with you. I would also like to extend my warm thanks to the outgoing Director General Pascal Lamy for his tireless efforts that he exerted to serve the organisation and his active engagement to promote the multilateral trading system. It gives me a great pleasure to welcome H.E. Ambassador Roberto Azevedo and congratulate him for his appointment as a Director General of our esteemed organisation. I do not envy you, Mr. Director General, that you have jumped to front seat as of your first day in office. The UAE will save no effort to cooperate and collaborate with you for the good of the organisation and the multilateral trading system.

**Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,**

We gather here today at a very important juncture in the history of trade, especially when many countries around the world are feeling the impact of the global economic slow growth after the economic crises which has hit the international community as a whole a while ago.

In the last ministerial conference , in the elements for political guidance , we have agreed to remain committed to work actively and collectively , thinking out of the box fully exploring different negotiating approaches , towards overcoming the critical stalemate facing our extreme commitment to the success of the Doha development round of negotiations . Here we are today, all convinced that we are able to harvest the ripe enough of the products which will be pouring to the pool of the DDA as a target crowning our success. Moreover, the deliverables of Bali shall have a positive impact and a positive externality to push the engine of the global economic growth serving the very main principles of the world trade organisation.

Moreover, after years of stalemate, impasse, on global trade agenda, there is a real opportunity in our hands to achieve a meaningful development friendly outcome that fosters market access, creates jobs that unleash real opportunities for higher growth throughout the world. This will also be an important pillar of support to achieve our agreed drawn goals for the millennium development goals.

**Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,**

In a business oriented calculation , to harvest what we have today in the Trade Facilitation deal , we are not so far , and according to various reliable sources , we would boost the world economy by an amount equivalent to 1 trillion dollars and could reduce total trade costs by 10 percent . This is, extremely, a tremendous value for our business communities especially our SMEs who are to struggle, the most, of the trade red tapes. We should seize the opportunity.

Furthermore, Doha round and its agreed conclusions was built around the word development. We have all worked in good faith for this and our work over the last decade, though with some turbulences and hurdles, is a progress registered in all fronts. The UAE, as a developing country, believes that more of focus on the development side of the equation would enhance the ambitions of all towards finalising a balanced deal to work for the good of all developing, developed and least developed. It is our collective responsibility to strike a deal, and let's start reaping and cultivating in Bali some fruits of what have planted since long.

The United Arab Emirates welcomes the adoption of the various decisions and recommendations before the ministerial on issues related to negotiations and ordinary work of WTO. All of these decisions will foster our future works and deliberations, and will have impact on strengthening the development side in the negotiations, especially those decisions designated to give favourable with special treatment for the LDCs.

The UAE is always of the view that the accession process to the WTO should be streamlined , facilitated and expedited with fair conditions , based on the multilateral trade rules , for developing countries and LDCs , especially that we have a large number of the Arab countries who are still negotiating the terms of their accession for the membership of the organisation. New accessions to the organisation are a mark to confirm the universality of this organisation. In this regard, we would like to welcome Laos and Tajikistan as new members to the organisation. We would like also to extend our welcome and congratulations for our brotherly country , the republic of Yemen for the adoption of the package of its accession to the WTO and we look forward for their active participation as a full fledged member .

In addition, the Arab group has contributed to the conference some elements related to the issues of the early harvest , issues under negotiations and ordinary WTO work to help push the discussions forward . The UAE fully associates itself with the statement submitted by the group and firmly welcome the participation of Palestine in this ministerial. Moreover, we call on members to seriously consider the observer-ship status requested by Palestine to the WTO.

**Mr. Chairman,ladies and gentlemen**

The UAE is a young nation which was built on international trade. The growth of the volume of Emirates trade till the year 2008 was extremely accelerating registering very high rates. The rate for the year 2009 and due to the global economic crises declined by 16.3% .It picked up later, on slower pace than before the crises, and registered rates on average 15% for the years 2010 - 2012. After the crises, amongst many other factors, WTO rules helped the international community to avoid protectionism policies and saved keeping borders open allowing market access for goods and services. Despite the economic hit, the UAE remained a secure destination for foreign investments where the FDI surged 21% for the year 2012 reaching \$ 9 billion from \$ 7.6 billion in the year 2011. The rules based multilateral trading system is of relevance to the trade policies that we are all striving to establish due to, at least, transparency and the expectancy. Led with a vision, the UAE is ranked as the 19th most competitive country in the world and ranked first in MENA region in terms of ease of doing business. This vision mixed with the international disciplines, including the WTO, will lead to accrue result oriented policies towards achieving a higher level in the diversification policies that my country is pursuing.

**Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,**

It is needless to say that the international community is in need of the rules based system which has served at the time of the crises and helped to avoid imposition of protectionist measures. It is now more than ever that we need to strengthen the Multilateral trading system and empower its development face. The UAE is a true believer in the multilateral trading system and attaches great importance to the rule - based multilateral trading system and we would always engage in a constructive manner with the member states to work towards its success.

In conclusion, we are at a high level of expectation that the yields of our deliberations here in Bali will produce a constructive and efficient post Bali road map that will empower the Doha Development Agenda with commitment towards achieving successful results for the benefit of

the entire membership, without compromising our multilateral consensus based decision and the non compromised single undertaking principle as a firm Doha mandate. My country, as most of the members, is fully determined to push ahead towards successful conclusion of the entire Doha mandate.

I wish our deliberations will carry the success for this timely and important conference.

Thank you for your time.