



CLOSING SESSION - 7 DECEMBER 2013

**CONCLUDING REMARKS BY MR ROBERTO AZEVEDO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

In recent weeks the WTO has come alive.

We have seen this organization the way it should be.

Negotiating.

Dynamic.

Working hard to get an agreement.

Working through weekends (and through the weeks!)

Working through the night.

Seeking common ground, finding innovative solutions, making compromises.

We have not seen such effort and engagement for a long, long time.

And in recent weeks we have lived up to our name.

Instead of a non-inclusive and non-transparent process, this time the entire membership came together to negotiate. Every delegation had a chance to participate in the negotiating process.

We have put the "World" back into the "World Trade Organization".

I am very proud of that — particularly because this approach did not prevent us from making progress. In fact it served to strengthen the progress we made.

Our developed and least-developed members played their full role in these negotiations — helping to shape a package which strongly serves their interests.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to say that, for the first time in our history: the WTO has truly delivered.

I challenged you all, here in Bali, to show the political will we needed to take us across the finish line.

You did that. And I thank you for it.

With these measures on trade facilitation, agriculture and development, we have achieved something very significant.

People all around the world will benefit from the package you have delivered here today: the businesses community; the unemployed and the underemployed; the poor; those who rely on food

security schemes; developing country farmers; developing country cotton growers; and the least-developed economies as a whole.

But beyond that: we have reinforced our ability to support growth and development; we have strengthened this organization; and we have bolstered the cause of multilateralism itself.

I would like to echo the words of Ambassador Omar Hilale of Morocco, who said yesterday, 'this package is not an end — it is a beginning'.

As a consequence of our progress here we will now be able to move forward on the other areas of our work, which have been stalled for so long.

With the Bali package you have reaffirmed not just your commitment to the WTO — but also to the delivery of the Doha Development Agenda.

The decisions we have taken here are an important stepping stone towards the completion of the Doha round.

And it is very welcome that you have instructed us to prepare, within the next 12 months, a clearly defined work program to this end.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work here in Bali.

And I would also like to welcome the accession of the Republic of Yemen, which you approved this week.

Yemen will be our 160th member — and our 35th LDC Member. It is a further, positive step towards universality.

I would also like to pay tribute once again to President Yudhoyono, and to the Government and people of Indonesia for hosting this Ministerial Conference in such an exemplary fashion.

The WTO community owes you a debt of gratitude.

I would like to thank ministers and heads of state in capitals around the world for their help. They are as much a part of this as ourselves.

I would like to sincerely thank once more the ministers and delegates here today.

I would like to thank the Ambassadors in Geneva for their hard work over many weeks and months.

I would like to express my renewed thanks to the Chairs of the negotiating groups, and to the Secretariat, my team, and the Deputy Directors-General for their tremendous efforts.

Since this is an occasion to thank people who have made this possible, I would like to thank my wife Lele, we would not be here without her support throughout this long and hard journey.

And finally I would like thank Minister Gita Wirjawan for his able chairmanship, and for his tireless support, political acumen, and dedication to the task throughout this process.

You have been critical to the success of this conference - and this package.

So, Minister, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this ceremonial gavel as a token of our thanks. I'm glad that we have given you a good reason to use it!

I sought the role of Director-General of the WTO because I believe in the multilateral trading system — not for its own sake, but because of what it stands for:

a system which gives life to the very ideal of multilateralism;

and a system which, this week, I am proud to say, has been strengthened and safeguarded for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to recall some of Nelson Mandela's words which are, I think, particularly appropriate today. He once said:

"It always seems impossible, until it's done."

The Bali package may have frequently seemed impossible, but now it is done.

And we all really did deliver here and now.
