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BANGLADESH



**Statement of Mr. Mahbub Ahmed
Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Mr. Chairman,
Hon'ble Ministers
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

Good morning,

I congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election. It is my privilege to thank the people and Government of Indonesia for making excellent arrangement and the gracious hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this attractive city of Bali. We welcome His Excellency Mr. Roberto Azevedo as Director General of the WTO and express our thanks to him for his dynamic and active leadership in engaging the entire membership in discussion for the possible Bali Package consisting of three pillars. Before I go to my deliberations, let me express Bangladesh's full supports to the statement made by the coordinator on behalf of the LDC Group.

As a founder member of the WTO, Bangladesh is committed to the multilateral trading system and has always been very active in advancing it. We firmly believe that WTO with its development emphasis has stimulated the less developed countries' economic development through increased trade and will continue to do so in future. Despite a wide range of formidable challenges Bangladesh has so far accomplished outstanding successes in terms of accelerating her GDP growth rate, alleviating poverty, integrating with the global economy and achieving significant progress in various socio-economic indicators. The overarching goal of recently adopted Perspective Plan of Bangladesh is to take the country forward through achieving the MDGs. In our journey towards achieving this goal, trade has been playing a very crucial role. We strongly believe that a rule-based multilateral trading system with increased market access opportunities in trade in goods and services will help us achieving this goal.

Excellencies,

The Doha Development Agenda was launched with an ambitious work programme and a strong determination to focus on development. Over the last five years we have not witnessed much progress in DDA. Nevertheless, during the last two Ministerial Conferences we could address some of the pressing needs of the least developed countries. We were encouraged to observe that since April 2013 all members have been constructively engaged in discussions with an aim to come up with a deliverable in the areas of trade facilitation, agriculture and development. We have before us a number of documents as a Bali Package with various degree of support from the WTO membership. We expect that a package will be adopted in this Ministerial.

Mr. Chair,

As you are aware, LDC Ministers have adopted a Declaration on 2nd December urging the Members to adopt the decisions on the LDC issues. Bangladesh calls upon all WTO members to adopt those decisions. We urge Member countries to draw up a post Bali road map of future activities for advancing Doha development agenda keeping development as the centerpiece in all elements.

Excellencies,

We appreciate Members' supports for further extension of TRIPS Waiver for LDCs. It will give us further space to develop and enhance capacity to comply with TRIPS obligations.

Trade-related capacity building is very crucial for Bangladesh and LDCs. While we appreciate efforts of the international community, we feel that EIF and Aid for Trade initiatives need to be strengthened.

I take the opportunity to welcome Yemen as new member of the WTO. We look forward to welcoming more countries in our family.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, let me express my sincere thanks to all Members for their relentless efforts to move multilateral trade agenda forward and uphold the credibility of the WTO system.

I thank you.