

**Statement by Dr. Hassan A. Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce,  
Kingdom of Bahrain to the Plenary Session of the World Trade  
Organisation's 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting, Bali-Indonesia, December 2013**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me at the outset seize this opportunity to extend the greetings of His Majesty the King, the Government and People of Bahrain to his Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the Government and the people of Indonesia.

Our sincere appreciation for the excellent organisation of this important Ministerial Conference, and for the warm reception and kind hospitality with which we have been received in this beautiful country, Indonesia.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our common objective here is to reaffirm our solid belief in the multilateral trading system, as proficiently administered by the World Trade Organisation, the "WTO". We are also confident that the WTO rules, obligations and its instruments for international trade monitoring and stability offer the best assurances against the repercussions of the global financial crisis.

It is rewarding to note the keen interest of so many countries to attain WTO membership. In this context, we would like to congratulate the Republic of

Yemen for its accession to the WTO. We also welcome all efforts and initiatives aimed at maintaining WTO support for the trading and developmental needs of developing and least developed countries

With limited agricultural and oil resources, Bahrain initiated its diversification drive few decades ago.. Such pioneering performance was even more invigorated during the past decade by the economic and social reform initiated by His Majesty the King in 2002.

Bahrain also maintains a transparent and properly regulated open investment and trading systems, with efficient protection of intellectual property and prospering financial and telecommunications sectors

Given our role as regional financial and trading hub, we are a keen proponent of trade facilitation, and we fully endorse the conclusion of the Trade Facilitation Agreement within our present Ministerial Conference.

However, we support flexibilities required by many countries about two items of the agreement, especially the procedures for consularisation and the use of fixed transit infrastructure carriers of transit goods and services..

We also welcome the proposal on food security and hope that their efficient implementation would secure the interests of all developing countries , and especially the net-importing countries like Bahrain.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you for your excellent steering of this vital Ministerial Conference, with the support of the devoted new Director General of the WTO Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, his dedicated staff, and all of the distinguished delegations present here in Bali this week.

Wishing our Conference full success.

Thank you for your kind attention.