

Mr. Alexander Stubb, Minister of European Affairs and Trade of Finland
Statement at the WTO MC9 plenary (Dec. 5 2013)

Mr. Chairman, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make three points in my remarks.

First point is that trade is back on global agenda! Trade liberalization is a topic of negotiations in all possible fora from multilateral to bilateral and plurilateral. There are 575 regional free trade agreements in the world. Clearly trade liberalization is the way forward. Free trade means more trade, more growth and more jobs. This is why we're here!

Second, we need a deal in Bali! Director General Azevedo has done excellent work in leading the Members towards balanced and clean landing zones, which should be acceptable to all. It will be interesting to see how history will judge this Conference. The previous multilateral trade agreements date back to 1995. It is about to time achieve concrete results. I urge all Members to move their red lines, and celebrate a deal here in Bali!

Third, we have to start looking beyond what the 21st century trade is about. Global value chains play an increasingly important role in international trade. This means that imports are as important as exports. If I think about my school-age children, they will never understand the rationale behind old mercantilist approach to trade and trade policy. They will soon be able to print goods and objects at home from 3D printers. They expect things to be delivered smoothly to their door step at the push of a button regardless of their origin. It is important that we focus on future and find ways to liberalize trade further!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Yemen for her accession to the WTO and thank Indonesia for excellent arrangements of this Ministerial Conference. Terima kasih!