

**The Speech of H.E.
Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry
Anas Khalid Al-Saleh**

**The Ninth Ministerial Conference
of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
Held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia
3 – 6 December 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Director-General,

Excellencies, Colleagues

First of all, I am pleased to extend, on behalf of the Government of the State of Kuwait, our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the government of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm hospitality and exceptional welcoming. Likewise, I would like to commend the organizers of this Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference and the WTO Secretariat for the outstanding arrangement of this meeting.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Roberto Azevedo for assuming the post of the Director General of the World Trade Organization, wishing him and his deputies every success in their enormous tasks.

As well, I seize this occasion to welcome our newest member to the WTO the Republic of Yemen, where I am sincerely confident of their significant and positive contribution to the goals of this organization.

Mr. Chairman

We strongly believe in the importance of activating all the resolutions of the Doha Development Agenda which should be implemented as a single-undertaking with an emphasis on consensus, also The State of Kuwait supports the expansion of technical assistance to developing and least-developed countries.

While we do acknowledge the existence of a number of obstacles which prevent member countries from reaching an agreement on specific issues, we urge all parties to do everything in their power in order to resolve these issues. We emphasize the importance of the multilateral trading system, which is the best composition for assuring stable and open trade, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, elimination of trade distortion, and the realization of growth and economic development.

To meet our obligations in the WTO, on one hand, and to correspond with our ambitions to become a global financial and commercial hub, on the other, the government of Kuwait along with the National Assembly is in the process of developing and improving all Kuwaiti legislations and laws that are related to trade. In this regard and in order to enhance our business

environment and to make it more attractive to domestic and foreign investors, we have issued a number of new laws and introduced some significant amendments on diverse existing laws.

Mr. Chairman

I would like to urge all members to support us in two key issues, first recognizing the Arabic Language as one of WTO's official languages, as this would significantly increase our participation in works and negotiations of the Organization, and would support more communications and relationships between civil communities within the Arab countries and the Multilateral Trading System.

Furthermore, we seek and look forward to your support for the League of Arab States request to become an observer member in the organization and in the ministerial conference, as this would enable all Arab countries to pursue WTO issues, and to contribute to the success of its decisions and agreements.

Thank You

