

*Statement by the Hon. Minister for Commerce and Supplies of Nepal,
Mr. Shanker Prasad Koirala, on behalf of the LDCs' Consultative Group in the
WTO, at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the WTO on 4 December 2013,
Bali, Indonesia*

Mr. Chairman,
Director-General of the WTO,
Hon. Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the LDCs.

We congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to preside over this Conference. We thank the people and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to us ever since our arrival in this beautiful city of Bali and for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference. We also pay our tribute to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia for his inspiring inaugural statement yesterday.

We thank the Director-General of the WTO, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Azevedo for dynamic and active leadership he has provided to the WTO. He has been working tirelessly to build consensus on Bali package, which, we believe, is essential to enliven the DDA and to secure the future of the multilateral trading system. We also thank the WTO Secretariat for all the support and assistance rendered to the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

We are assembled here amidst growing skepticism over the future of Multilateral Trading System. The continued impasse in the Doha Round of negotiations as well as the ongoing attempts of some members to seek solutions outside the WTO has deepened our anxiety. We stress in unequivocal terms that multilateral approach should remain at the heart of global trade discourse and norm-setting exercise. At this crucial period of time we call upon all the WTO members - mainly the developed members and other major players - to display necessary flexibility to conclude the Doha Development Agenda at the earliest by delivering a balanced package in Bali. The Doha Development Round, which was launched with the promise of making visible change in the living standard of

our people who are still grappling with the dehumanizing conditions of poverty and hunger, cannot be postponed to eternity. The time has come to take a bold decision and look forward with optimism but not to digress and backtrack.

We strongly believe that trade can contribute in the advancement of the global development agenda. This is more so at a time when we are engaged in defining the post 2015 development trajectory for sustainable and inclusive development. The challenge before us is to make the global trading system fully responsive to the needs and aspirations of majority of the people around the globe, in particular the LDCs. Development imperatives of the poor countries and people must inform our thoughts and actions when we deliberate on trade agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

For MC9, we started our preparations with a three-pillar package: trade facilitation, some elements of agriculture and development and LDC issues. We all need an outcome that is balanced and credible. It is our principled position that development issues must remain at the core of trade negotiations under Doha Round. We believe that a balanced outcome is still possible here in Bali if requisite political will is exhibited from all sides.

Trade has been universally recognized as a vehicle for growth and development. However the share of the LDCs in global trade has remained very low due to multiplicity of market access barriers and supply-side constraints. For the LDCs to truly benefit from the Multilateral Trading System, there is a need for full and timely implementation of decision on DFQF market access together with the implementation of provisions of simplified, transparent and facilitative rules of origin. We also need to meaningfully resolved cotton issue. We expect an expeditious and effective operationalization of services waiver. Aid for trade, with EIF as a vehicle, is equally important for building institutional capacity, overcoming supply-side constraints and promoting economic diversification in a sustainable and predictable manner. Further simplification and effective execution of the accession process as well as full and faithful implementation of all special and differential treatment provisions, as integral parts of the Multilateral Trading System, are the commitments we have to reaffirm and translate into actions.

I would like to inform this august gathering that the LDCs Trade Ministers, meeting here in Bali on the sidelines of MC9, have unanimously endorsed a declaration, which has now been circulated as WTO document. I would like to

call upon the WTO members to positively respond to the contents of the declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

Trade facilitation is an important issue. The proposed agreement on trade facilitation must address the concerns of all, in particular taking into account the special difficulties being faced by the LDCs and those facing severe geographical handicaps such as LLDCs. We underline that poor countries can only implement the provisions of TFA if they acquire implementation capacity on a sustainable basis through the effective provision of technical and financial assistance and support for capacity building.

All agriculture related proposals must be addressed with priority they deserve for a positive outcome in keeping with the central thrust of DDA.

Post-Bali work programme is important for us. We emphasize that we need to agree on a clear roadmap to accomplish DDA at the earliest. We must not shirk from taking a decision that would help transform the economic landscape of poor countries in the world. Let's work together to create a prosperous world for all !

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me speak a few words on my country in my national capacity. Elections to the second Constituent Assembly have just been held in a free, fair and credible manner. This has been a historic achievement for the people of Nepal in their pursuit of a democratic and inclusive political system. Currently, we are faced with the principal task of promulgating a new constitution by this elected body to conclude the peace process. We have recognized that socio-economic transformation alone can bring political stability in the country. We consider trade to be a powerful instrument to deliver prosperity and development to our people. We believe that Nepal's effective integration into the Multilateral Trading System is crucial to achieve our overall development objectives.

Thank you.