

STATEMENT BY MINISTER IN THE PLENARY SESSION

Chairman, Distinguished Ministers, Director General Roberto Azevêdo, Honourable Delegates and Guests,

1. Pakistan is a founding Member of GATT/WTO. Adherence to the discipline of multilateral trading system has always been the corner stone of our trade policy. We had high hopes for a successful Bali Ministerial and my delegation at Geneva was fully engaged in building bridges. Although consensus at Geneva could not be achieved, I am of the view that we must persist not only at Bali but also afterwards to maintain the momentum of negotiations. I am heartened that the Director General Roberto Azevedo led from the front and I commend his efforts. Despite his deep engagements, he remained in touch with Ministers in our respective Capitals.
2. Certain members have concerns about the future of the multilateral trading system and the WTO. Without undermining their qualms, I am sure we can find ways to keep the system working and to overcome any impasse in negotiations.
3. Mr. Chairman, you are aware that after eight years of negotiations and during the preparatory work for this Ministerial, we have developed a consensus on establishing a monitoring mechanism on special and differential treatment. Three LDCs-specific initiatives on rules of origin, operationalization of the services waiver, and a political statement on duty free quota free market access and cotton were adopted with consensus in Geneva.
4. I am proposing that these initiatives, which essentially relate to post-Bali work in the normal committees of the WTO, may be adopted by us in this Ministerial. In case we develop concurrence on this proposal, we will have a successful Ministerial by addressing the aspirations of less privileged Members. This will also help us to reenergize post-Bali negotiations in the WTO.

5. I have also noted and appreciate the outcomes of the regular work of the WTO, which will continue to monitor Members' existing multilateral obligations and protect their rights. What is required is to keep this work in focus and to continue taking new initiatives to keep WTO relevant for the current challenges. I am not giving less importance to negotiations on the elements of the Doha Development Agenda. We must continue the effort and deliver what we can. I would stress that the momentum of negotiations since 2001 cannot be wasted and we need to build upon the 2008 modalities on Agriculture and NAMA.
6. We are of the view that market price-support which is basically the focus of the interim solution is not a win-win solution on food security. Pakistan only agrees with the General Services part of the G-33 proposal which is about rural livelihood security through enlargement of Green Box programs such as land rehabilitation, farmers' settlement programs, issuance of property titles etc.
7. We will continue to do this by moving towards well-functioning markets through an ongoing process of agriculture trade policy reforms. Investment in agriculture and continuation of the reform process to ensure competitive and sustainable production are extremely important for food security.
8. At present the general consensus amongst our stakeholders is that market price support programs of one country could have a negative effect on the food security of other countries. We need a Post-Bali dialogue keeping in view all perspectives and possible outcomes of food security initiatives proposed by the WTO Members. We need to have a dialogue that puts all perspectives of food security on the table.
9. In Post-Bali negotiations I propose that Members work towards developing a comprehensive public food stocks initiative, while keeping in mind the inbuilt complexities of food security and its linkage with domestic and international trade. We fully support agricultural development schemes to enhance food

security and develop food stocks that are based on transparent, predictable and market based policies that do not distort production and international trade.

10. Before concluding my statement, I would like to express most sincere gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for extending generous hospitality to my delegation and to organize this Ministerial in the most befitting manner.
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