



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Statement by Hon. Richard Maru
Minister for Trade, Commerce and Industry

Madam Chairperson
Fellow Ministers
Director General of the WTO
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by joining all the WTO Members to pay tribute to the Director General, His Excellency Mr Roberto Azevêdo on his appointment, and acknowledge his tremendous effort and exemplary leadership that he has provided in guiding the WTO Membership in the last two months to develop the draft consolidated text on the three elements of the Bali deliverables.

It has been twelve years now since the launching of the Doha Development Agenda, and we are still struggling to conclude it. Papua New Guinea, like the rest of the developing and least developing WTO Members, places great importance on the development dimension of this round of negotiations.

I reaffirm my government's commitment and confidence in the Multilateral Trading System, and the World Trade Organization as the rules-based universal organization that does not only deliver on the economic front, but has that element of 'respect for all, regardless of the Member's size in its pursuit to balancing the interest of all the 160 Members.

We also congratulate our two neighbours, Samoa and Vanuatu for joining this rules-based system in the last two years, which is a testament to the Pacific region's confidence in the WTO and the multilateral trading systems. Papua New Guinea also congratulates Yemen on its accession to the WTO family in the 9th Ministerial Conference.

Papua New Guinea supports a predictable and rules-based system through the WTO which provides benefits in terms of security in market access with our trading partners, and adequate policy space to enable us to use trade measures in achieving our development objectives.

In this connection, we attest great importance to the MTS, as I have already stated, and therefore stress the importance of preserving its principles of full participation, inclusiveness and transparency (FIT) that was displayed in the Geneva Process to be continued in the post Bali work programme.

Madam Chair

The Bali package is the bridge to reinvigorating the whole round of negotiations, and therefore I urge colleague Ministers from the Member Countries to show the same concern and understanding in providing the political will to resolve the difficulties they may have on certain elements of the package.

A successful and balanced outcome for all three pillars of the Bali package is critical for inclusive completion of the DDA and for the sustained credibility and worth of the MTS. We cannot afford to leave Bali empty handed.

Madam Chair

Papua New Guinea supports a balanced and concrete outcome in Bali. We reaffirm our support for the Joint Statements delivered by the Honourable Trade Minister of Solomon Islands on behalf of the Pacific Islands WTO Members, Barbados for the Small and Vulnerable Economies, and Jamaica on behalf of the ACP Group on the three elements of Bali-deliverables.

In conclusion, I want to re-emphasize the inevitable repercussions of a possible failure in Bali on the Small Island economies in the Pacific region, including Papua New Guinea. We foresee that we will be adversely affected on two fronts which are: (i) for most of us it undermines the necessary domestic reform processes, and benefit from the potential development assistances that we anticipate from the Bali package, and (ii) proliferations of RTAs, bilateral FTAs and plurilateral Agreements that may not be in the best interest of weak and marginalised economies, including the small Pacific Islands countries.

Failure is not an option for us at Bali and it is our prayer that we will all find the resolve to secure a package in the last two days here at Bali.

Last but not the least, my delegation wish to express its sincere gratitude to the Government of Indonesia and its people for their warm friendship and generous hospitality accorded to us during our stay.

Thank you.

Hon. Minister Richard Maru, MBA, OBE, MP
Minister for Trade, Commerce and Industry
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