

Statement Delivered, by Honourable Clay Forau Soalaoi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade at the WTO 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali, 4th December 2013

**Hon Ministers of Trade,
Director General of the WTO,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Mr. Chairman

I would like to join other head of delegations in congratulating you on your assumption of chairmanship to guide the deliberations of this conference. I wish to thank the Government and people of Indonesia for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality in this beautiful Island of Bali.

Solomon Islands came to this conference with a high expectation and that is, for the Bali Package to be delivered this week. As an LDC, we need the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) to deliver on the promises of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Although the package before us may not fully capture everything we aspire to achieve, we hope it will be acceptable to all members. We therefore urge all members to exercise the necessary political flexibilities to ensure we have a package at the end of this conference.

Should we conclude Bali successfully, it is important we continue into other issues in the DDA and should avoid as much as possible to bring in twenty first (21st) century issues and concentrate only on those already identified in the DDA.

I now speak on behalf of the six Pacific Island members of the WTO, three of which are LDCs and the other three are developing countries. The Pacific Islands are some of the most vulnerable economies within the WTO membership given their smallness, remoteness, their geographical fragmentation, heavy reliance on a few goods and services exports and are on the frontline of climate change.

While the Bali package provides opportunities for some of our members and perhaps little benefit for others, our presence here in Bali is to support a successful outcome of MC9 that restores confidence in the multilateral rules based system which is predictable, fair and inclusive. A successful outcome in our view would constitute:

- 1 support for the development pillar including the LDC proposals;
- 2 the provision of adequate and predictable, financial resources and technical assistance for trade capacity building to accompany any agreement on the Bali package or elements of the package; and
- 3 to support a post-Bali work program that recommits the WTO to putting back on track the DDA negotiations that would holistically address the development agenda including, progressing the work programme of small vulnerable economies, fisheries subsidies disciplines, trade and environment including climate change and making special and differential treatment provisions more effective in addressing non-tariff measures on members key export interests.

Finally, I wish on behalf of Solomon Islands extend our gratitude to the Director General, His Excellency, Mr. Roberto Azevedo for his outstanding leadership in ensuring the negotiations in Geneva are inclusive and transparent.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm our unequivocal support for a successful outcome of the Bali package this Friday and lets not depart the beautiful shores of Bali empty handed but at least with something to show for our respective citizens.

Thank you.