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JORDAN

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It is my pleasure to be here today, and to have the occasion to represent Jordan in its first participation as a full Member in a WTO Ministerial Conference. Many of us here, may still recall the enthusiasm, dedication, patience and good spirit with which Jordan pursued its membership, notwithstanding, the challenges and frustrations of the accession process, and yes, notwithstanding, the bitterness, disappointment and apprehensions that was Seattle.

Jordan's enthusiastic bid for membership, underscored one thing: its strong belief in the merits and the promise of trade, and in the ability of the multilateral trading system to deliver this promise. Indeed, Jordan has always viewed membership in this system as part of its overall pursuit of economic reforms, growth and development perhaps mainly through export expansion and greater market access, but also equally deliberately, through greater import and investment liberalization. For those of us mired in the world of trade negotiations may falsely assume that our trade policies should be a function of trade diplomacy, and that successes in this are to be measured in terms of maximizing market access, and minimizing inroads to our markets and investment environment. But for us in Jordan, it is clear that in today's economy, perhaps more than ever, the link between export prosperity on the one hand, and imports and investment liberalization on the other, is more integral than many of us may like to think. We are convinced that the sustainable and diverse inroads into global markets cannot be achieved by highly protectionist economies, isolated from the international competition, and deprived from the flow of international capital, know-how and technology. We know too well that import and export liberalization are two flip sides of one and the same coin.

Therefore, we come to this podium not to argue on the ideals and the principles but to make sure that we participate in calibrating the multilateral trading system in a manner that restores faith to such principles. Therefore, we see the challenge of Doha, as the collective challenge of translating the ideals of trade theory applicable to the textbook world of perfect competition, to the not so perfect world we live in. For it is indeed unfortunately a world of great disparities and asymmetry. In view of this, for many of the players in the multilateral system, nominal access does not always translate into effective access, and homogeneous rules are not necessarily fair rules. Ours is a challenge to calibrate the multilateral trading system, and its *modus operandi* to take account of such disparities, whereby all of us end up winners, as promised.

Seattle has taught us powerfully and painfully that a bad deal is no deal at all. Today we know that if too many of us leave this Conference feeling overwhelmed, outpaced, sceptical, or distrustful, then we all are bound to lose. If too many of us leave feeling that they have given too much and gained little in return, we are all bound to lose. If too many of us feel that the multilateral trading system compromises principles of fairness, human dignity, global health, global environmental safety, and genuinely global prosperity, then we have all failed. If too many of us feel that the roles are set by the positional clout and not by a genuine consensus on collective interests,

then we have all failed. We all need to leave this graciously hospitable capital capable of telling our public that in return for the mandate they have given us for greater economic cooperation and dialogue, we will deliver greater welfare and prosperity.

Having said all of that, it is clear from our own experience that absorption of all the commitments, building capacity within the private and public sectors and full utilization of the multilateral trading system takes time, investment and commitment. We had our own successes and failures in doing so. Therefore, Jordan as well as many countries that recently joined the Organization is in need for flexibility in the coming round of negotiations particularly in the area of market access.

Allow me at this juncture to extend Jordan's sincere welcome to the People's Republic of China, and to Chinese Taipei on the occasion of their accession to the World Trade Organization. We are confident that their accession will enrich this Organization and further enhance its universality and stature. Moreover, in this regard, we stress the need to accelerate the accession process of the Arab countries namely: Algeria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Finally, I would like to express Jordan's sincere thanks to the Emir, people and Government of Qatar for their hospitality and efforts for the organization of this historic event.

I remain confident of a positive outcome through agreement proving real gains for us all.
