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## ANGOLA

Statement by H.E. Mr Vitório Domingos Hossi  
Minister of Commerce

As Angola celebrates the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence today, it is an honour for me to express, on behalf of my country's Government and the delegation accompanying me, my deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Emirate of Qatar for the hospitality extended to us on the occasion of this prestigious Conference.

I am especially pleased to address this Conference of Ministers and representatives of the WTO Members, who are meeting in this beautiful country in order to discuss and find the best possible solutions to trade issues, and in particular the effects of economic globalization, as listed on our agenda, which are of crucial importance in shaping a more balanced future for trade and the restructuring of international trade, development promotion, poverty reduction and the achievement of equitable prosperity for our various countries.

The Republic of Angola considers that trade liberalization policies can help to establish secure foundations for sustainable economic growth, which is a key factor in the success of my country's ongoing reform programme, based on a poverty reduction programme and the monitoring arrangement concluded with the IMF. We accordingly recognize the vital need to mainstream trade policies into national development strategies.

We are well aware that greater market access is not in itself the key to development – though it may play a decisive role in that regard. We must recognize that, although globalization has contributed to some extent to the growth of transition economies, its benefits have not yet had any significant impact on the developing economies in general and the least-developed countries in particular.

Thus, the African countries, and especially Angola, are faced with a considerable challenge, namely the need to create a continent-wide architecture, *inter alia* at the level of regional economic communities, capable of fostering economic growth and of strengthening the technical and human capacities needed to be able to derive rational and sustained benefits from its resources. Indeed, the dynamics of international interdependence demand that developing and least-developed countries, especially on the African continent, should adjust and adapt in order to achieve development objectives.

Six years have gone by since the WTO was created and, despite the promises made to facilitate the integration of the least-developed countries into the multilateral trading system with a view to obtaining greater economic and social benefits, we regret to say that the reality and prospects for their development remain bleak.

Consequently, we would like to reiterate the validity of the resolutions adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least-Developed Countries in Brussels, and of the Zanzibar and Abuja Declarations, which aim to find fair and equitable solutions to help those countries still marginalized by the system to realize their greatest ambitions.

Thus, we urge all nations, especially the developed countries, to provide more effective support in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions taken in the various international forums, including those agreed upon in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round (special and differential treatment, duty- and quota-free market access), most importantly, by offering systematic and continuous technical assistance and institutional and human capacity-building, so as to revive the economic, commercial and social conditions in our countries.

I must conclude by extending my sincere congratulations to the People's Republic of China on its accession to the WTO and by stating Angola's commitment and readiness to help work with the WTO and other international institutions to make this Conference a resounding success.

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