

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(03)/ST/65
12 September 2003

(03-4852)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fifth Session
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

Original: English

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Statement by H.E. Mr Sadriddin Djienbekov
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On behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic let me, first of all, thank the Government of Mexico for the hospitality and all and every endeavours undertaken to have this Ministerial Conference a success!

Today, we, the WTO Members, face solving extremely important issues put by ourselves two years ago at Doha with the purpose to achieve a sustainable economic growth and progress in the world trade development. The objectives of development through trade liberalization are directly connected with the decisions we adopted when launching a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at Doha. Now, having gone through two years of intensive work as in Geneva and in all capitals we need to sum up the progress achieved.

My government has accepted the Decision on TRIPS and public health with the genuine excitement which will allow poor people of the world suffering epidemic diseases to get access to the cheap medicines. It really symbolizes our best endeavours to accommodate needs of all people and increases the credibility to this Organization.

Undoubtedly, the cornerstone for the overall negotiations is agriculture. The Kyrgyz Republic is being driven mainly with agricultural production and, therefore, the access to international market of agricultural goods and, at the same time, concerns related to domestic development of all agricultural sectors, are the paramount and strategic element for the development of this Member of the World Trade Organization. This is why we tie in a success of the Round of Negotiations with the equitable and, in the meantime, progressive level of liberalization. However, the progress in negotiations achieved so far is of particular concern for us. As long as high tariffs, significant domestic support, and export subsidies for agricultural producers in industrialized countries persist, we cannot speak about achieving a common balance in negotiations. We would only welcome the intention of leading partners to further reduce domestic support across all programmes of support and apply a formula, which would grant a significant improved market access for developing and least-developed countries.

Another issue of the negotiations agenda is the market access for industrial goods. The modalities, which should be adopted by members of the Negotiating Group, shall reflect the will of all WTO Members to improve significantly the market access, as set out in paragraph 13 of the Doha Declaration. The modalities to be agreed upon should consider the developmental aspects of developing countries and contain a specific approach under existing rules and disciplines, with the view to facilitate further industrialization.

I should touch upon the issue of negotiations in services.

As it is noted in the report of the General Council, the particular progress is marked in the negotiations on services, although the quality and quantity of proposals from the negotiation participants still remains far away from our best expectations. The Kyrgyz Republic, being a country with one of the most liberal economies, including trade in services, hopes for the successful outcome of these negotiations.

My delegation extends its full support to further strengthen the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement by providing clearer and more predictable rules on Articles 22 and 23 concerning the protection of geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits.

Taking this opportunity I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Kyrgyz Republic when acceding to the WTO in December 1998 has undertaken commitments on market access for goods and services, domestic support and export subsidies at a level which significantly exceeds those of many WTO Members with respect to tariff cuts and elimination of all forms of non-tariff barriers.

Being in a stage of creating truly market-driven economy and facing certain difficulties with underproduction, high external debt before the international financial institutions, aggravated by the absence of cheap and affordable means of delivery of goods which can be provided by access to maritime transportation, the Kyrgyz Republic considers itself as a developing country recently acceded to the multilateral trading system.

We welcome the work done by the WTO Negotiation Group on Rules. We take note of the need to improve rules of application of anti-dumping investigations, period of validity, reviews, taking into account the special provisions for developing countries. With respect to subsidies and countervailing duties, it is also necessary to take into account the special and differential treatment for developing countries.

As for regional trade agreements, the Kyrgyz Republic has an opinion that regional agreements significantly assist developing countries in solving short-term objectives and facilitate integration into the world trade system. Being the member of regional unions of Newly Independent States, the Kyrgyz Republic supports regional partners' accession to the WTO, and hopes that all WTO Members will support this difficult process on a mutual understanding basis and under existing rules and requirements.

We welcome accessions of new WTO Members, namely, Cambodia and Nepal. They are the first two countries among the least-developed countries whose accession to the multilateral trade system will become effective soon since the establishment of the WTO. We strongly believe their accession will facilitate their development in all areas and will strengthen international trading system.

In conclusion I would like to wish peace and prosperity to all of you present at the Conference and your nations!
