

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(03)/ST/91
12 September 2003

(03-4879)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fifth Session
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

Original: English

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Statement by H.E. Mr Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Al-Qasimi
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As we gather in Cancún today, we are driven by high hopes and expectations that this Conference will take essential steps towards realizing our set objectives as provided in the Doha Development Agenda.

We strongly believe that reaching an equitable solution to trade issues will not only open venues of sustainable prosperity for countries and regions, but it will also bring them closer than ever.

Let me now make brief comments regarding some issues that are of great interest for UAE.

Concerning the subject of the Intellectual Property and the Public Health, we welcome the agreement reached, recently, on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS and the Public Health. We believe that this solution will give WTO Members an additional momentum to reach agreement on the other outstanding issues that they will deal with, here, in Cancún.

Concerning the market access for non-agricultural products, our interest in these negotiations stems from our commitment to strengthening our diversification policy of exports and of markets targeted. Unfortunately, our negotiators were not able to reach an agreement on the modalities that must manage these negotiations. In this context, we share the view that the adoption of a framework approach for establishing modalities could re-energize the negotiations in this issue.

With regard to the services, the negotiations seem to take the road. My country attaches a great importance to the service sectors. We work firmly to set them up as one of the main pillars of our national economic strategy. For that reason, we treat the requests, which were submitted to us with utmost seriousness, hoping that we will be able to submit our initial offer as soon as possible.

Regarding the agricultural negotiations, we shall have to refer to our creativity to find the just balance between the necessity of liberalizing the agricultural exchanges and the importance of a progressive and rational approach to implement this liberalization, while guaranteeing a special differential treatment for the developing countries.

For the special and differential treatment and the implementation issues, we note that significant differences still remain between the Members on certain agreements. It becomes urgent to reach concrete results in these issues, which would produce a positive effect on the other negotiations,

This is our evaluation of the realized works until now. The question is what guidelines and decisions should be adopted at this Conference in order to provide the added momentum for the next stage?

In our view, we believe that it would be important to evoke three main guidelines which are not completely new but the actual stage requires that they are re-exposed with new dimensions.

First, it is necessary to reaffirm our commitment to the development dimension as a central element of the Doha Agenda. The Cancún Conference offers an appropriate opportunity to demonstrate this renewed commitment.

Secondly, since the Doha Agenda is a global programme of negotiations, we have to establish "positive linkages" between the areas of negotiations.

The last, and not the least, concerns the possibility of establishing a stratification of priorities for our future works. It is evident that the determination of such priorities is not easy because the economic and social policies differ considerably from a country to another.

Nevertheless, we believe that a certain priority can exist between some subjects, according to the spirit and the letter of the Doha Development Agenda. These include subjects, which occupy a central place in the Development Policies in Developing Countries. Guaranteeing an appropriate response to these issues will rebuild the confidence of all of us and incite developing countries to strengthen efforts in the overall negotiations.

I would like, before ending my statement, to congratulate both Cambodia and Nepal for their accession to the World Trade Organization, urging at the meantime WTO Members to facilitate the accession of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan and others.
