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## ANGOLA

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

On behalf of the Angolan Government and delegation I wish to express my sincere and profound gratitude to the Government and people of Mexico for the hospitality they have extended to us since our arrival and the excellent conditions created for organizing the work of this Fifth Ministerial Conference.

I particularly welcome the fact that, at this Conference, I am addressing Ministers and senior officials of the Members of the World Trade Organization, meeting here in this beautiful and historic town of Cancún to discuss and find the best solutions to the many economic and trade issues on the work programme and, more particularly, to mark out the course to be followed in bringing the trade negotiations launched in Doha to a successful conclusion.

Since the historic Doha Round was launched, we have been somewhat dismayed to find that the mandate given by the Member States at the Fourth Conference, as reflected in the Doha Declaration, has not been fulfilled, essentially in certain areas of paramount importance to the trade of developing countries in general and the least-developed countries in particular, thereby calling into question the very name "Development Round" and, more serious still, the WTO's credibility as a multilateral forum capable of finding satisfactory solutions to the serious problems of the most vulnerable Members.

The joint commitment at Doha to place the interests and needs of developing countries at the heart of the work programme must not only be reaffirmed in Cancún but must also rapidly take concrete shape by achieving constructive progress and acting on the commitments made.

In this connection, we think it appropriate to reaffirm here the validity and relevance of the declarations in Dhaka (Second LDC Trade Ministers Meeting, Bangladesh), Mauritius (First Ordinary Session of Ministers of Trade of the African Union) and the conclusions of the Sixth Meeting of ACP Ministers of Trade held in Brussels, which reflect the dismay and the aspirations of the LDCs, the African countries and the ACP countries regarding the present trade negotiations.

Despite the prevailing disappointment, we cannot fail to welcome the recent approval by the General Council of the Decision on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and public health.

It is an important decision, long-awaited by the African countries in general and in particular by the countries confronted with serious public health problems, especially AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

Our peoples will appreciate the endeavours of WTO Member States (particularly the developed and producer countries) to arrive at the requisite consensus and a happy outcome to this Agreement.

The positive signal by the WTO to the international community must serve as the basis for resolving other pending trade issues that form part of the Doha Agenda.

The Republic of Angola, which is now living in peace, considers that trade liberalization can make a positive impact on economic growth and recognizes the importance of integrating trade policies in national poverty-eradication strategies, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We are nonetheless fully aware that opening markets does not in itself constitute the solution to the countless socio-political, economic and financial problems that still confront Africa, especially as the efforts by the African countries to foster economic and social progress are greatly hindered by internal factors, and above all by external factors over which they can take no decisive action. These factors include:

- Fluctuating commodity prices and deteriorating terms of trade;
- dependence on one or two export products;
- low levels of foreign direct investment, including technology transfer;
- lower official development assistance (ODA);
- the burden of the external debts; and
- market access and other difficulties.

This trend must be promptly reversed so that developing countries can play an effective role and be harmoniously integrated in global trade.

In this context, we call on all nations, particularly the developed nations, to provide our countries with more effective and concrete support in pursuing more just and equitable solutions and fully achieving the profound aspirations of the developing countries, which are often marginalized by the international trading system.

A balanced conclusion to the Doha Round will undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to solving some of these difficulties.

Hence, we urge all WTO Member States to show sound judgement and engage in constructive commitments and undertakings so that the Doha negotiations will make an effective contribution to development.

While we consider that the process adopted for presenting the Draft Ministerial Text is not the most adequate and that the text does not faithfully reflect the Doha Development mandate, my country will make a constructive commitment and positive contribution to a successful outcome to this Conference.

Lastly, I should like to congratulate Cambodia and Nepal on their accession to the WTO.

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