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VIET NAM

Statement by H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen Minister of Trade

(As an Observer)

Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam warmly welcomes and has the honour to participate in the Third Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference. This Conference is an opportunity for acknowledging the global endeavours, firstly those exerted by developing and least-developed countries, in properly taking advantage of trade liberalization for development. Being convinced of the potential benefits of a fair and equitable multilateral trading system, paying due attention to the benefits of developing countries, Viet Nam pledges itself, at the capacity of a low-income developing economy in transition, to accelerate the process of accession to the WTO, which is one of guarantees for its sustainable development, with a view to boosting trade development of Viet Nam, in particular, and that of the world as a whole.

Acknowledging significant progress in new Members' admission, the comparison, however, has shown that their commitments are substantially higher than those of former WTO Members having the same level of development. Viet Nam would like to share proposals from many WTO Members that the Members should sympathize with developing countries, especially those in transition and with low-income. WTO Members should request developing countries to make market access commitment only at appropriate level and pace in accordance with their needs of development and capacity.

Viet Nam would request Members to exert their all-out efforts to support the acceding countries' soon admission and to facilitate their participation in the coming multilateral trade negotiations to be decided by Ministers at this Conference.

Information technology, trade in services and agriculture are crucial impetus to the development of the global trading environment. However, developing countries, due to different reasons, are deeply concerned over their "modest" participation in and profits from these domains.

In such context, developed industrialized WTO Members should further extend assistance and priority to developing countries. The difficulties faced by developing countries as well as their development targets should also be taken into consideration in multilateral agreements, so as to enhance their effective participation in the future development of the mentioned issues.

Viet Nam is absolutely in favor of strengthening cooperation between the WTO and other international institutions like UNCTAD, IMF, WB ... with a view to maximizing the achievements, especially those of developing countries, by harmonizing global trade, financial and development policies. Given a huge agenda of challenging subjects and increasing concerns of Members over the

implementation of existing Agreements, the next Round of negotiations should concentrate on matters that are directly related to trade.

Viet Nam support the idea that the new WTO Round of negotiations should give priority to areas such as agriculture, services and special and differential treatment (S&D) in favour of developing and least-developed Members countries, so they can fully integrate into the multilateral trading system.

With that in mind, we hope that the coming negotiations will reflect a balance of rights and obligations amongst participants as well as foster the growth and prosperity of all nations.
