

Statement of
H.E. Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour
Minister of Trade and Industry, Egypt
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**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegations,**

It gives me great pleasure to join the “WTO Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali”. Allow me Mr. Chairman to express my gratitude to the Indonesian government for hosting this conference and for the warm welcome and hospitality which we received since our arrival.

I would like also to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Roberto de Azevêdo for his appointment as the 6th Director General of the WTO. I am confident that through his great experience and efforts we can, and will reach our targets.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to restate that Egypt deeply believes that strengthening the multilateral trading system is in the interest of all WTO Member States, under one condition that it responds to their needs and concerns, in particular those of the developing and least developed countries. In fact, this can only be achieved by the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda.

Unfortunately, the Multilateral Trading Negotiations System has suffered an extended impasse since Doha Round was launched in 2001. It had been agreed at this time to conclude the deal in 4 years on the basis of “a single undertaking”. However, a decade has already passed, and most of the major negotiating areas have not witnessed progress.

Egypt has actively participated in the intensive negotiations held in Geneva during the last few weeks. We have appreciated the huge efforts exerted; it gave us hope that this hard work would be crowned with success.

We need to consolidate those efforts during the coming hours to reach a mutual satisfactory solution for this small package.

All parties have to show the political willingness to strike the balance needed for the package to pass, taking into account that Bali is not an end in itself, but a stepping stone to revive the multilateral trade negotiations.

It is more than ever before, that we need to intensify our cooperation. I would like here to stress on the following:

First, All WTO Members should be fully committed to successfully conclude the DDA, with fair and balanced outcome, taking into consideration the development aspects of the Doha Agenda.

Second, the priority should be given to improve and simplify the accession process to the WTO, for both the developing countries and International Governmental Organisations (IGOs). In this regard, Egypt is looking forward to welcome Palestine and the Arab league as observers at the WTO.

Last but not Least, I sincerely congratulate the Yemeni Government for its hard efforts which led to its accession to the WTO.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for your kind attention, I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to all WTO Member States delegations in Geneva and the WTO Secretariat for their hard and continuous work during the last few months.

Thank You.