

Statement

of

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Regional Integration & International Trade

Republic of Mauritius

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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman

Director-General of the WTO

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Participants

On behalf of the Mauritius delegation, let me express our profound gratitude to the Government and people of Indonesia for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this Conference.

My appreciation also goes to Director-General Roberto Azevedo and the WTO Secretariat for their hard work to advance the multilateral trading system.

We must support this hard work by ensuring that Bali delivers on a balanced package, preserves the credibility of the multilateral trading system and gives a boost to the global economic situation. Failure would be a retreat from multilateralism and encourage further proliferation of Free Trade Agreements. We cannot afford this nor can we afford rules being crafted within restricted communities finding their way into the WTO system.

Excellencies, multilateral rule making and market opening based on consensus are essential elements of good economic governance which guarantee balanced and equitable outcomes. Our solidarity should therefore ensure that the WTO remains the global trade rule making body.

We must adopt flexible approaches and look at the common good rather than at individual benefits if we are to succeed.

Let me underscore that we are already collectively agreed on the three pillars of a balanced outcome, namely :

- Development, which is the very essence of the Doha development.
- Agriculture, which we all acknowledge as the backbone of rural economies and sustainable development
- Trade facilitation, which through binding rules, will help expedite goods clearance, improve competitiveness and by extension, economic performance and employment opportunities.

The achievement of this balance must however ensure that our development partners take binding commitments to provide financial assistance and capacity building to implement trade facilitation measures.

Excellencies, Let me also regret the fact that the issue of food security, which impacts directly on poor farmers and on net food importing developing countries many of which are small island developing states, is not being addressed in a manner that will lead to a comprehensive and permanent solution. The proposal of the G33 on public stock-holding will neither divert

trade nor have a trade distorting effect. We therefore need to find a permanent solution that will address realities on the ground.

We are supportive of the efforts in favour of the LDCs and their development package. Let me recall however that we had agreed in Hong Kong to consider the impact of DFQF on other developing countries in a similar situation. We believe that this must be part of the decision on DFQF.

Finally, as a Small Island Developing State(SIDS), Mauritius is deeply concerned over the lack of progress on the work programme for small and vulnerable economies. We call for intensification of work, including on the issue of a dedicated aid for trade envelope for SIDS. We also re-iterate our request for the recognition of SIDS as a specific category at the WTO.

Excellencies, a fair and balanced outcome in Bali will be a small but decisive step for the multilateral trading system. We have a historic opportunity to make this happen and should not let this slip away.

Thank You.

Bali, 05.12.2013.