

WTO 10th Ministerial conference, 15-18 December, 2015

Address by Mr Edgars **Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
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thus ensuring transparency and predictability for stakeholders. Despite economic and financial turbulences, the share of the world trade in GDP has increased by 10% over the last two decades, it is a fact.

Moreover, the WTO membership is constantly growing. The organization has welcomed over 30 new members in the past 20 years, among them some of the world's largest as well as most vulnerable economies. That means there is continuous trust in the multilateral trading system. I am pleased to see the Republic of Liberia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to join the organization, and I congratulate the Republic of Seychelles and Kazakhstan to their first WTO Ministerial Conference.

At the same time we have to address the outstanding key issues and find a way to move forward, **reinforcing the credibility** of the organization and **its negotiation function**. The relevance of the WTO depends on how alert we are in response to the changing global business realities. **A new approach** is necessary to successfully advance the outstanding issues. I also believe, we should not hesitate to start discussing **new issues** in the WTO framework.

I applaud the achieved success with regard to the expansion of trade in information technology products since the original ITA in 1996 – that will add considerable value to the world trade. I also look forward to a positive outcome on the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) in the near future.

Dear Members,

The World Trade Organization is our strong asset. We should be responsible

governance. Let Nairobi deliver meaningful results, and serve as a stepping stone for further global trade integration.

Thank you.