

**STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER  
OF TRADE FOR THE REPUBLIC  
OF VANUATU**

Madam Chair

Honourable Ministers of Trade,

The Director-General of the WTO,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I make this statement. On behalf the Government of Republic of Vanuatu, I wish to thank the people and the Government of Kenya for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this magnificent country and for the excellent facilitation of this Ministerial meeting.

Madam Chair, the multilateral trading system is at a crossroad, with the membership divided on how to proceed as regards the Doha Development Agenda. The multilateral trading system has served us well since its inception in the 1940s and it is in the interest of the global community, to do whatever is necessary to strengthen and make it more responsive to the needs of all Members, particularly small and vulnerable states which continue to operate at its periphery and are yet to derive significant benefits from it.

As one of the recently acceded WTO Members, this is the second Ministerial Conference that Vanuatu is attending. In joining the WTO and, as an LDC, Vanuatu had the expectation that it would enhance its performance in the multilateral trading system. As such Vanuatu urges all Members, particularly the leading trading nations, to exercise the necessary flexibility to make it possible for the Doha Round to be

concluded as soon as practicable. Abandoning the Doha Round is not an option for Vanuatu and the multilateral trading system and must not be undermined at this meeting. In that regard, Vanuatu associates itself with the statements made by the Pacific Group, the LDC Group and the ACP Group. We need, as an organisation, to

received from the EIF and urges donor nations and organisations to continue supporting this invaluable programme. Vanuatu welcomes the pledging of about USD90 million by donor countries earlier this week.

I thank you.