

Statement by HE Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo

Minister of External Relations

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by thanking Indonesia for its hospitality and for the excellent arrangements for this Ministerial Conference.

We also thank the Director-General, Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo, for his efforts to bring us together in paving the way for a successful conclusion of our negotiations in Bali.

Brazil is pleased that this Ministerial Conference will welcome Yemen as its 160th Member. We hope that the pending accession processes will move swiftly, thereby taking us closer to the objective of universal membership.

Mr. Chairman,

We have seen, in the past few months, a welcome reinvigoration of the WTO's negotiating pillar. Members have endeavored to find common ground in spite of their different interests and priorities. We still have some sensitive issues to cover, but a positive outcome is not out of reach. Brazil is confident that we will be able to arrive at a satisfactory agreement this week.

We have worked constructively to shape the agreement on trade facilitation. This common endeavor coincides with efforts underway in Brazil to reduce costs and streamline customs procedures. These objectives are shared by all Members. This agreement will entail, however, implementation costs that may be burdensome, especially for LDCs. Therefore, the implementation of this agreement will require political commitment to fulfill its obligations as well as to provide developing countries and LDCs with the technical assistance and capacity building required.

We are also pleased that Members fully recognize that reaching agreement on some agricultural proposals, including a declaration on export subsidies and an understanding on TRQ administration, is a necessary part of any early harvest to be agreed upon. Food security is also

Mr. Chairman,

In the next three days, the world's attention will be drawn to this Conference. Let us take this opportunity to adopt a balanced Bali package and to mandate a post-Bali work programme to advance the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda.

Thank you.