

**NINTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
WTO, Bali, Indonesia, 3rd 6th December 2013**

CZECH REPUBLIC

**Statement by H.E. Mr Milan Hovorka
Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade**

First of all, allow me to express our gratitude to the Government and People of Indonesia for hosting this important Ministerial Conference on the wonderful island of Bali.

The Czech Republic is pleased by the extension of the WTO membership. We cordially welcome the Republic of Yemen among the members.

At the beginning, the Czech Republic would like to associate with the statement made by the European Union.

The current economic situation, in which the Ministerial is taking place, remains unsatisfactory. Global growth is still weak. Too many countries are experiencing recession. The temptation of protectionism continues to be high. The WTO represents an important part of the response to challenges that we face locally, regionally and globally.

It is with this sense of purpose that the Czech Republic has come to Bali. We are here to take the necessary steps to turn the Bali package, based on the agreed outcome in trade facilitation, agriculture and development, into reality.

We must demonstrate our capacity to deliver. This requires all Members to show political will and readiness to compromise.

The Doha Development Agenda stands for development. That is how the Czech Republic perceives the emerging Bali package and benefits resulting therefrom.

Indeed, developing countries and least developed countries should benefit most from the deal.

A reasonably ambitious, legally binding Trade Facilitation Agreement, with carefully crafted flexibilities and technical assistance provisions, represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ease global trade.