

CROATIA

Statement by Mr. Tihomir Jakovina Minister of Agriculture

Honorable Director General,
Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I would like to start with expressing our sincere appreciation to our host, the Indonesian Government for organizing this Ministerial Conference and the warm hospitality in such beautiful surroundings of Bali. Let me also thank the Director General and his team for the significant efforts they have invested, together with all members, to achieve a compromise and to contribute to the successful outcome of this important Conference.

I would also like to cordially welcome the Republic of Yemen in the WTO. Integration into the global trade and economic processes today generates positive impact on national economic and social development, further ensuring the commitments towards strong and universal multilateral trading system. We hope that the other negotiation countries, in particular our neighbors Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, will accomplish their objectives to join the WTO soon.

Croatia firmly believes in the centrality of the multilateral trading system and is convinced that strengthening the WTO is critical for anchoring global expectations towards an open world economy. We are convinced that this Conference would be an important milestone towards completion of the Doha Round and the reaching the agreement would be vital for the credibility and the future of the multilateral trading system.

We all hope for the success of this Conference. The package that is in front of us is a good balance between tangible benefits for all WTO Members that new Trade Facilitation Agreement would deliver and deeper integration of developing and especially the least developed Members into the world trade patterns. As a minister of agriculture, I am particularly pleased with the fact that agriculture is a part of the package at this Conference and believe that these important decisions would bring more transparency and avoid trade distortions.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

We still have time to make this Conference a success. A progress has been made during these days but we are still facing significant challenges, both here in Bali and in the post Bali period when we need to define the guidelines on how to deal with the remaining negotiations under the DDA and its completion, while seeking long-term and sustainable solutions.

Participation of all of us here clearly demonstrates readiness and willingness of all members to contribute to the functioning and strengthening of the multilateral trading system. We should not refrain from completing our vision of truly universal, equitable, predictable and non discriminatory multilateral trading system.

