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Mr Chairman, fellow Ministers, Director General, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Government of Indonesia for hosting the conference and for the excellent organization. I would also like to commend DG Roberto Azevedo for his

last call for multilateralism. Unfortunately, a failure of this meeting seems approaching. Hence, it is imperative we are clear and straightforward in our statements.

The Italian government considers the so-called “Bali package” presented by Director General Azevedo a fair and balanced deal. Additionally, according to the majority of speeches made from this floor, this opinion seems to be widely shared.

The effects of a positive result are potentially very substantial, in particular because of the Trade Facilitation measures. This applies to all countries no matter what stage of development they have reached. And, within single countries, the main beneficiaries of this agreement are going to be SMEs, which are the backbone of a successful development strategy and a vibrant economic system.

