

**9th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference
3-6 December 2013, Bali, Indonesia**

Statement by H.E. Mr. SUN Chanthol
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Kingdom of Cambodia

Wednesday, 4 December 2013

H.E. Mr. Gita Wirjawan, MC9 Chairman,
WTO Director General
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, allow me to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in the beautiful Island of Bali. I have full confidence in you, Mr. Chairman, for steering our Conference to a successful conclusion. Also, I wish to express my appreciation to Director General Roberto Azevêdo for his tireless efforts to make MC9 a success for the benefit of all Members.

Cambodia is a small country that depends heavily on export expansion to increase employment and incomes and to reduce poverty. We have always recognized the central role of WTO in providing the framework within which international trade and investment could be harnessed to achieve our development objectives. Cambodia was the first LDC country to become a member of the WTO since its inception in 1995 and I am pleased to inform you that our country has greatly benefited from the Multilateral Trading System.

Mr. Chairman,

Cambodia fully supports the statement made by Nepal on behalf of the LDCs and we are committed to play a constructive role in whatever process that the Director General will create in his effort to bridge the remaining gaps in trade facilitation text and other related issues in the next few days. We cannot afford to fail the Bali Conference. The multilateral trading system must survive to improve the well-being of the people of the world, especially those of the poorest members of our organization. I feel that everyone of us here wants to see the Ninth Ministerial Conference concluded successfully, but we seem to struggle to cross the last centimeter of our 10000 km long journey. We should not walk backward but to push forward to conclude the Bali's package before leaving this beautiful island. The well-being of the citizens of the world rest in our hands. Please make the right choice. Adopting the Bali's package is the right choice. The choice that will raise the standard of living of the citizens of the world.

Thank you.