

Statement by

MACAO, CHINA

Let me start by congratulating Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo for assuming the role of the Director-General of the World Trade Organization in September this year. We are confident that Ambassador Azevêdo will avail himself of his rich experience to lead Members in making a success of the DDA negotiations against the waves of the changing global economic situation. Besides, we would like to thank the Indonesian Government and WTO Secretariat for the impeccable arrangements for this meeting in the beautiful island of Bali.

This Ninth Ministerial Conference also marks the twelfth anniversary of the inauguration of the Doha Round. The twelfth anniversary is a milestone year; hence, as a reflection on our current situation, Members should first recall the global economic development that has been witnessed since the establishment of the GATT, the episodes of economic crisis and the follow-up recovery that has been strode through, and most importantly, how the multilateral trading system has contributed to these successes in the long history of the global economy.

Indeed, all economies are now interdependent. This proof record has shown us that the multilateral trading system was, and still is, greatly significant to us, and it will be even more relevant in the future. For that reason, we are now at an unwavering position to fortify the multilateral trading system and on the right path toward the very much desired conclusion of the Doha Round - the goal that we have set up for ourselves twelve years ago.

Nonetheless, hurdles remain in many of the negotiation frontiers to decelerate the pace of the DDA negotiations. We would wish that Members may bridge the gaps on those difficult issues by according a high political will in the face of the ongoing negotiations for the ultimate positive outcome of the Doha Round.