



That is why we have engaged in the process of accession to the GPA in an efficient and ambitious manner. Having had successful and positive negotiations, we are certain that our efforts and commitments will be recognized and that Montenegro will be able to fully join the GPA family early next year.

Let me address now the recent negotiations and developments in the Doha Round, that is, the so-called Bali package.

In the past weeks we have felt renewed energy in the WTO brought by the new leadership. To that extent, allow me to express appreciation for all the efforts made to facilitate an MC9 deal, particularly those of DG Roberto Azevedo who has managed to mobilize delegations to engage in negotiations with renewed commitment and in good faith.

Montenegro is aware of the difficulties of finding an agreement in the multilateral context. But we are also aware of the immense benefits that the MC9 package, consisting of trade facilitation, a set of agricultural issues and the development pillar, would bring.

To that end, we would like to welcome and encourage the ongoing consultations of Director General and we expect and hope that this will result in finalizing the negotiating texts and remaining gaps in the agriculture and development pillars.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement will have great impact on development and economic growth. For small countries like Montenegro, which rely

Montenegro supports the development content of the Doha Round and the need for meaningful integration of developing, and particularly the least developed, countries, in the international trade community. To this effect, we attach great importance to the development pillar of the MC9 package and its benefits for their long-term economic perspectives.

We would like to reiterate our belief that a strong multilateral rule-based trading system is the key for global economic welfare, sustainable development and poverty reduction. In these challenging times, we would like to express our commitment to working towards compromise and solutions. We believe that the WTO is a negotiating forum capable of delivering this. We believe that the WTO can deal with the modern challenges of the world trade system. But in order to do so, we must have a clear understanding of the way forward. MC9 is providing us the chance to carry on our obligation and to chart that clear guidance for the future progress and economic security of our nations, by adopting the Bali package.

Thank you.