



border crossings. And the seed, which is vital to a good harvest, ends up going mouldy. This hurts farmers, consumers and exporters, and costs governments revenue. So those trucks need to move. I hope that this agreement will make a difference.

Trade facilitation can also strengthen the link between aid and trade. I see many opportunities. A matchmaking facility, for example, could help countries in need of technical assistance to access that technical assistance. And in humanitarian emergencies, it should be possible to distribute relief supplies more quickly.

The new WTO agreements would provide more proof that aid, trade and investment go hand in hand. Our representatives in Geneva almost reached the finish line. It is up to us to provide political guidance. We need to walk the final mile. The benefits of success will be immense for all. Those who might frustrate our aim will bear a grave responsibility indeed. The vitality of the open multilateral trading system is at stake. We are facing a once in a generation opportunity to ensure a more inclusive trading environment, drawing in low income countries and increasing South-South trade. We must grasp this opportunity.

Thank you.