

**South African Statement to the 9th World Trade Organisation (WTO)
Ministerial Conference – Bali, Indonesia**

4 December 2013

Dr. Rob Davies, MP

**Minister of Trade and Industry
Republic of South Africa**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by sincerely thanking the Government and People of Indonesia for their generous hospitality in hosting this Ministerial Conference.

As we gather here in Bali for MC9, it is important to recall that the Doha Round was launched in 2001 with an explicit commitment to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of its work programme.

We had agreed to “address a number of implementation problems of developing countries” because we recognised that the agreements inherited from the Uruguay Round were unbalanced and biased against developing countries.

We had also agreed that “Special and Differential Treatment is an essential part of WTO agreements” and went further to agree that these provisions need strengthening to make them “more precise, effective and operational”.

Importantly too, we agreed that Agriculture would be at the centre of the Doha Development Agenda.

It is also important to state that, for South Africa, trade policy and outcomes for trade negotiations must provide the policy space for industrialisation and support for economic diversification.

The Agriculture pillar contains nothing more than best endeavour on the critical issues of export subsidies and an “opt out” clause for an important member on the issue of tariff rate quotas. We see the critical need to find a meaningful and permanent solution to addressing the food security needs of poor people in developing countries.

The monitoring mechanism that was meant to provide creative solutions for developing