

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(01)/ST/130
12 November 2001

(01-5745)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fourth Session
Doha, 9 - 13 November 2001

Original: Spanish

PERU

Statement by H.E. Mr Jorge Voto-Bernales
Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO

I thank the Government of Qatar for its generous hospitality as it plays host to this important meeting and I congratulate it on the excellent organizational arrangements.

We welcome with satisfaction the entry of the People's Republic of China to the WTO, certain that its presence, supported by many years of successful reforms and economic growth, will strengthen the Organization and open up new and promising opportunities for all Members.

We also welcome the economy of Chinese Taipei, which brings its industrial strength, innovative capacity and commercial dynamism.

Peru has come to the WTO Ministerial Conference convinced of the need to send a powerful signal from Doha designed to strengthen the multilateral trading system. We recognize and can attest from our own experience that international trade has been the most important vehicle of growth and world economic integration for many decades, though at the same time we observe that its benefits are still proving elusive to vast swathes of the developing world. The international economic situation calls for a special effort to make this multilateral system more inclusive and participatory.

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Peru wishes to underline that it belongs to the Andean Community, an integration scheme that has also created new scope for cooperation and broader understanding amongst its five member countries.

The WTO's new negotiating agenda must offer ambitious prospects for stimulating development. The developing countries are not at the same starting-point as the developed ones, and those differences must be taken into account. There are huge disparities in the conditions of competition that work to the detriment of developing countries. These are obvious not just from macroeconomic indicators alone, per capita income for instance. Amongst other areas, we face disadvantages in basic services infrastructure, institutional and business management capacities, the level of skills of human resources, technologies, transportation and in access to and terms and