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YEMEN

Statement Circulated by H.E. Mr Abdulrahman Mohamed Ali Othman Minister of Industry and Trade

(As an Observer)

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Yemen, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Chairman and the Executive Bureau of the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference for their election to lead this important Conference, wishing them all success. I also would like to congratulate the Director-General, his colleagues at the WTO Secretariat, and the Organizing Committee for the precision preparation and continuous communication with participants to hold this Conference on its predetermined date.

Yemen, as other LDCs, hopes for the establishment of truly clear, simplified and fast track procedures for accession of LDCs, by this Fourth Conference. Accession has become a major issue pertaining to the universality of the WTO and the representation of all countries. We wish that this Conference would come up with proper solutions and remedies to overcome the difficulties confronting the accession process.

We believe that the Fourth Ministerial will actually provide a great opportunity for the realization of the aforementioned objective. We therefore, affirm the adoption, by this esteemed Conference, of the full text of Zanzibar proposal on accession, which was issued at the LDCs Trade Ministers' Meeting in July 2001. No less than a Ministerial Decision would really translate such proposals into practical results.

Finally, I would like to indicate my country's welcome to the conclusion of the People's Republic of China's accession process, and its full participation in the MTS. We are looking forward to the immediate and smooth conclusion of similar accession processes, particularly the LDCs including Yemen, and the four Arab Countries, i.e. Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Lebanon, and Algeria.