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## NEPAL

Statement by the Honourable Purna Bahadur Khadka  
Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies

*(Speaking as an Observer)*

I am honoured to represent His Majesty's Government of Nepal at this Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, the Government and the people of Qatar for hosting this Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference and for the traditional and generous hospitality extended to us. I also wish to

negotiation, could render the accession process difficult for the LDCs. Here, it may be important to recall that not a single LDC has succeeded in acceding to the WTO since its establishment. It is our view that facilitating accession of least-developed countries that have completed the minimum requirements with commitments towards WTO provisions should be seen as a logical first step in integrating these countries into rule based multilateral trading

We appreciate the commitment made by our development partners in assisting the LDCs during the Third UN Conference on LDCs. With a view to contributing to the success of the WTO Ministerial Meeting here in Doha, LDCs Ministers met in Zanzibar and agreed on the Zanzibar Declaration with an LDC Development Agenda based on the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 agreed in Brussels. My delegation hopes that this WTO Conference will endorse fully the Zanzibar Declaration and the Development Agenda.

I would like to underline that the principle of accession for the LDCs on terms and conditions consistent with their stage of development, commitments not higher than original LDC Members, a transition period commencing from the date of accession and an expeditious process of accession with necessary technical assistance is one of the issues agreed in Zanzibar. It is our view that unilateral trade liberalization measures undertaken by acceding LDCs should be recognized. Due consideration should also be given to existing preferences and concessions enjoyed through bilateral and regional trading arrangements.

Nepal has joined Trade Ministers of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on WTO issues to complement participation in the multilateral trade system and strengthening regional cooperation. The Joint Statement of SAARC Commerce Ministers of August this year reaffirms the need of integration of developing countries and least-developed countries into the global economy.

Already this Conference has acquired a historical dimension as we welcome two new Members into the family of the World Trade Organization. We congratulate them. Nepal has historical, cultural and social relations with China. We have been a close witness to the unprecedented growth and prosperity enjoyed by its people during the last decades. China's entry is an important positive step towards making WTO a universal organization in the true sense.

We believe trade needs to be considered within a broader development context. Nepal hopes to achieve the development goals by integrating its economy into the multilateral trading system with commitment to the principles and provisions of WTO. We hope this Conference will succeed in mainstreaming the development agenda in international trade negotiations.

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