

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN,
PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU**

Statement circulated by Mr lin Hsin-I

maintaining policy coherence between WTO measures and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Moreover, in view of the fast changing global trading environment, it is becoming increasingly important for us to turn to 'behind-the-border' measures, such as trade-related competition and investment policies. Despite the fact that these issues are complex, we should work towards addressing these issues through a more flexible and pragmatic approach, in order to develop a free and fair competition environment for the world trade.

We fully understand that encouraging developing and least-developed countries to actively participate in the new work programme is one of the most important factors that will ensure the success of the multilateral trading system. In view of this, the WTO and the other international agencies have offered a range of capacity building and technical assistance programmes. Although we are not yet a full member of the WTO, I am pleased to report to you that we have already provided funding to two activities organized by the WTO, both of which are aimed at facilitating the integration of developing and least-developed countries into the multilateral trading system. It should be noted that after our accession, we also plan to provide tariff-free treatment for certain products originating from the least-developed countries to improve their market access opportunities.

We are facing a world economy in which the challenges and opportunities are both new and unprecedented. We strongly believe that the WTO, the vanguard of the multilateral trading system, has now a vital role to play in unifying all the WTO Members to approve the new work programme before us so as to move the world economy forward. As one of the new Members of the WTO, we look forward to the opportunity to work side by side with all the WTO Members to contribute to the success of the multilateral trading system and to create a better world.
