

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(01)/ST/43
10 November 2001

(01-5621)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fourth Session
Doha, 9 - 13 November 2001

Original: English

ROMANIA

Statement by H.E. Mr Cristian Colteanu
Secretary of State, Head of Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Promotion,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I am honoured and pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this important meeting of the 142 WTO Members, all confident that the multilateral trading system represents a solution to many of the problems of our world today. We are also determined to improve the system, to the

sector. We all are looking for opportunities to develop areas of comparative advantages, to protect infant industries and to ensure a better life for the people in our countries. To this end, a balance of the negotiations is compulsory and it would be almost impossible to reach at it in a few economic sectors. I will just take the example of agriculture where at this moment competition takes place not between products but rather between the financial capabilities of the countries.

At the same time, the large diversity of the WTO Members, their very different level of development and capacity building, the size and natural conditions are to be recognized and treated in such a way as to ensure an equal right to each of us to development and a better life.

A rules-based system represents a good answer, while a better one would be an improved system fostering fair trade. At the same time, how far should liberalization go, under a rules-based system? Only as far as no protection "wave" is induced! We all should analyse more carefully the dynamics of trade remedies cases during the last years. For sure, they are reactions of the governments to pressures from the industries, always looking for protection and better trade conditions. Still, they might hide a step-back to a liberalization measure. And were the exporters given a strong enough right to defend their interests?

Many of our concerns are covered by the proposals included in the implementation issues and these matters have to be recognized and solutions to them be identified but we have to move ahead and to take the appropriate decisions.

We represent here our governments and all of us, rich, poor, large or small are committed to act in order to increase welfare and as an element to that, to protect the health of our people. To this end, the draft document on TRIPS is relevant and goes beyond the implementation issues.

This gives us the opportunity to express our appreciation for the work done in Geneva by all Members, under a determined and committed guidance of the Chairpersons of the General Council and its specialized bodies and of the Director-General to whom we like to pay a special tribute.

The draft texts of the Ministerial Declaration, of the other documents on which decisions are to be taken represent, in our view, a good base for work here in Doha. We are determined to make our contribution to finalize these documents and to ensure that the work programme we are to establish is realistic and beneficial for all and each WTO Member.

Romania recognizes and supports both the work done in the TRIMs matters and all the other

We congratulate the new WTO Members and we are prepared to work together with them to maintain the trust in the multilateral trading system. The same spirit of cooperation will guide us during the process of accession of the other candidate countries.

Let me end by thanking, through you, the Qatari authorities for the organization of this Conference. We praise your efforts and warm hospitality.
