

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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## CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by H.E. Mr Miroslav Somol  
Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade

First I wish to join the preceeding speakers and thank the Government and the people of Qatar for their hospitality and the excellent arrangements ensuring the necessary conditions for holding this important Ministerial Conference.

The Conference is taking place at the important crossroads of international relations. The world economic environment has become increasingly integrated. Globalization is a reality and the challenge we face "is to find not only a political dimension to globalization but also its human and moral dimension", as the Czech President Vaclav Havel has stressed in his public call for a new round of WTO trade negotiations.

We have gathered in Doha to get globalization right and ensure better integration of developing countries, and in particular least-developed ones among them, into the world economy. Despite unprecedented opportunities offered by new market openings, so many developing countries have not been able to reap full benefits of free and rules-based trade. This must be changed and we are here to bring about improvements to the trading system that are required to put all countries on the path of development and for better distribution of fruits of globalization.

The growing relevance of the multilateral trading system is being enhanced by the accession of two important Members, i.e. China and Chinese Taipei. The Czech Republic would like to seize this opportunity to welcome these two trading partners into the WTO family and is looking forward to working closely with them as with full Members. At the same time, we are confident that other countries seeking accession will follow soon.

A renewed urgency of this Conference has been sensed by 11 September. On that date, it was not only the United States that had been attacked by unprecedented act of terrorism and violence, but also the world of the trade and its values. The recent tragic events remind us of the importance of trade, which goes far beyond mere economic dealings. More than ever, trade is also about peace, freedom and settlement of problems. By giving a new impetus to multilateralism, we create the conditions for greater political stability worldwide.

The importance of making this meeting a success has also to be seen in the context of the present global economic situation. Most of the major trading partners are at the edge of the prospect of a slowdown. Under these circumstances, we have to send a sufficiently convincing message to businesses, which will testify to our determination to boost the world economy through a series of ambitious trade negotiations aimed at further opening of markets and strengthening and developing the rules and disciplines of the WTO.



extension of the protection of geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits, I have to repeat that for us the only way to proceed is the negotiating option with a clear time-frame.

Turning now to implementation issues, I should like to reaffirm the importance my country is attaching to problems encountered by developing countries in efforts to comply with their Uruguay Round commitments and participate more fully in the multilateral trading system.

On our part, the Czech Republic has continued to provide improved access for imports coming from developing countries. Products from all least-developed countries enjoy duty and quota free access. I am pleased to announce that the Czech authorities have recently decided to promote the least-developed countries' integration into the trading system also through financial assistance to enable representatives of these countries to take part in ministerial deliberations.

To conclude, let me refer again to the reflection of President Havel according to whom we live in a remarkable age when even responsibility of representatives of sovereign States is being globalized. Mr Havel has called to "grasp this joint responsibility for a better future for coming generations and to contribute, throughout a new Round of trade talks, to the search for global solutions to the global problems of today's world."

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