

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

WT/MIN(01)/ST/50
10 November 2001

(01-5632)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fourth Session
Doha, 9 - 13 November 2001

Original: English

LATVIA

Statement Circulated by Mr Maris Riekstins

We acknowledge the importance of multilateral negotiations on agriculture and services launched last year. We want to see the momentum of the negotiations in agriculture and services sustained. Nonetheless, we are convinced that the negotiating agenda comprising only core market, access negotiations is no longer sufficient. The process must be further developed to make the WTO capable of reacting to the challenge posed by the global economy. Therefore, Latvia actively supports inclusion of the subject in investment into the new round of negotiations. We all need to look beyond our narrowly defined concerns and should look ahead to start new comprehensive trade negotiations.

Latvia attaches particular importance to the role of the developing countries in the trading system. We are of the strong view that the results of new negotiations should facilitate the integration of the developing countries into the multilateral trading system. Trade has always been an important instrument of economic and political development. Hence, involvement of the developing countries into the global trading system will contribute to the world welfare and security. We welcome strong emphasis of the Ministerial Declaration on the aspects of development, and in particular, the important role of enhanced market access, balanced rules, and well targeted, sustainable financed technical assistance and capacity-building programmes clearly set out in the Declaration. Moreover, in each and every field of new negotiations we are committed to pursue the goals of sustainable development. In our view, the agenda before us signals to the outside world that the WTO Members are now launching the new negotiation with development aspects in the heart.

In conclusion, as a strong supporter of a successful Ministerial Conference, I would like to express my conviction that we must launch a comprehensive broad based round of negotiations in order to assure the future and relevance of the multilateral trading system.
