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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Statement by H.E. Mr Hugo Guiliani Cury
Minister of Industry and Trade

This meeting is being held at what is a difficult time the world over. Nevertheless, we are here to participate constructively in the World Trade Organization negotiations. However, if we think back to past events and then consider the present situation, we have to admit that the Organization still lacks equitable solutions for the developing countries. This is clearly making it lose credibility in the eyes of many countries. If the outcome of the Doha Ministerial is to be successful, it must, of necessity, be understood that multilateral trade has to operate as a two-way system.

The draft Ministerial Declaration which is being presented in Doha promotes issues of interest to developed countries and leaves those raised by lesser-developed ones unresolved. For example, in the case of agriculture, no mention is made of the need to abolish tariff peaks, tariff escalation, subsidies or export credits. Nor has the proposal to create a development box, put forward by several countries, been taken into consideration.

The question of implementation has been discussed at length without any immediate solutions

How then can we possibly be expected to dismantle, no later than 2007, a sector which has proved the best instrument we have ever had in terms of attracting foreign investment, diversifying exports, creating jobs and preventing the flow of migrants from the Dominican Republic to the United States? We reaffirm here the need to extend, under Article 27.4 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the transition period for free trade zones until 2018.

The message that we wish to put across is a clear one: