

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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## HONDURAS

Statement by H.E. Mr Oscar Kafati  
Minister of Industry and Commerce

On behalf of my country, I wish to thank the Government of Qatar for hosting this Fourth Ministerial Conference.

The Government of Honduras, which I have the honour to represent, is very gratified to attend this Fourth Ministerial Conference, with an open mind and in the hope that the Conference will be the success we all want and will agree on provisions to ensure that commitments and benefits are shared equitably among all the Members of this Organization.

When it acceded to the GATT in 1994, Honduras undertook a number of commitments and obligations, which we have assumed responsibly. As a developing country, Honduras has done everything possible to pursue and achieve the goals of a free market and liberal trade policies; even so, the imbalance between rights and obligations under the Uruguay Round Agreements has resulted in an unfair distribution of benefits.

Accordingly, we consider that the time has come to adopt the relevant Decisions, so as to solve the implementation issues that have arisen since the Third Ministerial Conference, in Seattle. Three years of arduous work have gone by on this topic and the market access commitments entered into in Marrakesh have still not materialized, nor have the special and differential treatment provisions become binding. It is time to lay appropriate foundations for the next multilateral negotiations, which will be known as the "Development Round".

I cannot fail to reiterate my Government's gratitude for the good faith shown by Members in rectifying the mistake that excluded Honduras from Annex VII during the negotiations of the Uruguay Round agreements. It is also important for Honduras to see in the decision on implementation to be adopted at this multilateral Conference that a country leaves the list in that Annex when it has reached

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Until the problems of access for products and sectors of interest to us are solved, we do not believe it appropriate for further obligations to be added to our participation in trade.

My Government is engaged in the current agriculture and services negotiations. As for agriculture, special and differential treatment must form an integral part of the negotiations, it being understood that such treatment should not be viewed in the same way as non-trade concerns, since the situation of the agricultural sector in developing countries is completely different from that in developed countries. Similarly, we should like a clear reference to be made to the "Development