

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

WT/MIN(01)/ST/75
11 November 2001

(01-5644)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fourth Session
Doha, 9 - 13 November 2001

Original: English

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

As for the social clause, the UAE has no difficulty whatsoever with the question of observance of core labour standards. We have subscribed to a substantial number of international labour conventions that deal with these very important issues. But we believe that the International Labour Organization, and not the WTO, is the appropriate forum to address the issue of compliance of core labour standards.

The United Arab Emirates notes with satisfaction the accession of new Members during the last two years and we congratulate particularly Oman and Jordan. The accession to the WTO of new Members is of great importance for the universality of the multilateral trading system. Therefore, the UAE calls on WTO Members to spare no effort for an easy accession of the candidates to the World Trade Organization and supports an early accession of Saudi Arabia.

With regard to the so-called new issues, the United Arab Emirates believes that the valuable work in the areas of investment and competition policy interrelations should continue in order for developing countries to get more awareness on these issues. We support the work undertaken in this respect by the working groups and we believe that further steps could be reached.

The United Arab Emirates supports the work programme undertaken by the WTO in the area of electronic commerce and we believe that the Members could adopt the status quo until next Conference regarding the levying of customs on electronic transactions.
