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EL SALVADOR

Statement by H.E. Mr Miguel E. Lacayo Arguello
Minister of Economy

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of El Salvador, I wish to express gratitude for the cordial reception and the kind attentions paid to our delegation by the Government and people of Qatar on the occasion of this Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. It is a great honour for me to meet here with the Ministers of the other Members of the Organization.

El Salvador comes to this meeting convinced that a more open trading system, with clear and fair rules, is an important instrument for achieving the objective of improving the living conditions and quality of life of our population. We are convinced that the liberalization of international trade leads to increased employment in the developing countries, an economic system based on freedoms, but with opportunities for all, and a strengthened and sustainable dem2ion31Weation.Smitiesonal t the liberaliztreadev the al quw (vkind attecomies Wee ol(Statganiz issuentrea ensuet specisteeneddifl Contiationw (nstrumentrade) Tj T*56-

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To that end, we Ministers must take full advantage of the valuable opportunity this Conference provides, by taking the necessary policy decisions that will enable all Members and, in particular, the small developing economies, to realize the real benefits of participation in the World Trade Organization.

El Salvador accords the highest priority to economic and social development plans under Article 27 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, since these constitute regimes of vital importance for the achievement of our legitimate and just aim of ensuring the well-being of our population by attracting investments which facilitate the creation of greater employment opportunities; this in turn will not only raise income levels but contribute to improved access to health, education and decent housing.

Together with other developing countries, El Salvador has taken an active part in the work of the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, where we have put forward serious proposals aimed at finding a comprehensive solution in respect of plans of this kind.

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