

# WORLD TRADE

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## IMPLEMENTATION

We are aware that many of the commitments taken on through the WTO demand capacity to implement them. We understand that developing countries in particular require understanding in this area, while at the same time being encouraged to live up to commitments made. We therefore welcome the proposals on a concrete action to remedy the problems.

## TRIPS

Another area where it is clear that a practical approach is needed to accommodate non-trade concerns, is medicines. Here we must ensure a balance between the urgent needs of poorer nations for pharmaceuticals versus the need to ensure intellectual property rights as a basis for further scientific and technological progress.

## ENVIRONMENT

Balance means looking beyond pure trade concerns. The launch of negotiations on trade and environment issues at Doha is an essential element in a balanced outcome. We hope that we will see further improvements in this direction in the final DOHA declaration.

## AGRICULTURE

Iceland is firmly committed to the Agreement on Agriculture and the continuation of the reform process as provided for in Article 20. Iceland is highly dependent on international food trade and imports more than half of its domestic consumption in calorific terms. It is, however, imperative that further negotiations address non-trade concerns in a meaningful and balanced fashion and take into account the different interests and sensitivities of all Members, be they developed or developing. Economic, social, environmental and natural conditions vary significantly between countries and the specificity of each requires a degree of respect within the multilateral trading system. Iceland will work constructively towards a balanced outcome of the agricultural negotiations that safeguards its legitimate trade and non-trade concerns.

## INVESTMENT

We would prefer a stronger commitment on investment. Indeed, we see no need to wait for the fifth round.

The increasing number of Members to the WTO bears witness to the Organization's success. With the Membership of China an important step is being taken in the history of the WTO. I would like to welcome China and other countries that have joined our Organization since the last Ministerial Conference, notably Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Jordan, Lithuania, Moldavia and Oman.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency Mr. Yousef Hussain Kamal on your election as Chairman of the Conference and through you I would like to extend our gratitude to the State of Qatar and all the organizers of this important event for their warm hospitality.

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