

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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## BOTSWANA

Statement by the Honourable Tebelelo Seretse  
Minister for Trade, Industry, Wildlife and Tourism

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7. Botswana is a firm believer in the multilateral trading system. The benefits of trade liberalization have, however, not been equitably distributed. The globalization process continues to marginalize developing countries. It is for this reason that Botswana supports the proposals by other developing countries that special and differential treatment is a core principle of the multilateral trading system and must be made meaningful and operational. We also support proposals that development issues must be brought to the centre stage of the WTO work programme.

8. Botswana is a semi-arid landlocked country that is dependent on exportation of a few commodities. The majority of the population is dependent on subsistence agriculture. The only agricultural export is beef and the country is a net food importer. The negotiations on the Agriculture Agreement must therefore take into consideration the concerns of net food importing countries and ensure that the Ministerial Decision with respect to the impact of agricultural reform on net food importing countries is fully operationalized.

9. Diversification of the economy is a major policy objective for Botswana. Given the country's small internal market and limited raw material base, international trade has to play a critical role in our economic development strategy.

10. The multilateral trading system must recognize the specificities of vulnerable economies like Botswana in order to facilitate their integration into the global economic system. Some WTO Agreements need to be reviewed and amended to enable developing countries to implement their development em. Some