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LITHUANIA

Statement by H.E. Mr Evaldas Ignatavicius
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

I am glad to have this opportunity to address you on behalf of Lithuania at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization here in Doha, Qatar. It is my pleasure and duty to present you our thoughts and share our opinion on the agenda and objectives of this conference.

This Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha is very important to us, since it is the first Ministerial Conference where my country participates as a fully fledged Member of the WTO. After a complex accession process we are happy to be in the WTO "club" and to have this opportunity to participate in the discussion on -0.1409ftunity to

between trade and non-trade concerns a fair and balanced agricultural trading system can be established.

Therefore, taking into account the aim to base further liberalization on a mutually advantageous basis and an overall balance of rights and obligations and the coexisting concern expressed hereby, recently acceded countries seek flexibility and appropriate accommodation of their concerns in the Ministerial Declaration and further process of negotiations.

We do hope that a new round will encompass those multiple issues that we have pointed out, thus contributing to the image of the WTO as a universal system. However, in order to be truly universal in every meaning of this word, the WTO still has to expand its borders. Such major players in the world trade arena as the Russian Federation and other CIS countries must be taken aboard. It is in the interests of all of us.

Having said all that, I would like to stress once again that a balanced agenda of the new WTO round reflecting interests of all the Members of the WTO should be built and followed in further negotiations.

As a final comment once again I would like to say that Lithuania strongly supports calls to start a new round of negotiations on trade liberalization. The WTO is understood as the global and authoritative forum of progressive and globally advantageous liberalization. The WTO is also seen as a well-founded body for establishing, strengthening and clarifying rules and principles of the international trading system. Mr Chairman, dear representatives of Member countries, it is our duty to justify this perception and to prove that we are able to cope with problems arising in a way to wealth and prosperity of the whole world. Wishing all the best for this conference, I would like to thank the distinguished authorities of Qatar for all their hard work and efforts that were put in order to organize this conference and for the hospitality we have been shown. Let us hope that this favourable atmosphere will contribute to favourable results of this conference.
