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**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**Fifth Session**  
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**GERMANY**

Statement by H.E. Dr Alfred Tacke  
State Secretary, Federal Minister of Economics and Labour

I would like to start by thanking our hosts, Minister Derbez and the organizers of this Conference, for their hard work.

This Conference is scheduled to take key decisions about the future direction of the world trade round.

Nothing has changed in the two basic assumptions which resulted in our joint success in Doha nearly two years ago.

- The world economy needs a clear signal for growth and employment.
- International cooperation and economic development are the basic pillars of global security policy and conflict prevention.

I therefore call on all of the participants at this Conference to display the same desire for success here in Cancún.

In my view, there are three main priorities at this Conference.

- Substantial market opening is and remains the core of the multilateral trade round.

In order to be able to conclude the negotiations on industrial tariffs and agriculture within a foreseeable timespan, we will need to agree on sufficiently specific parameters in the coming days.

With their most recent proposals, the EU and the US have shouldered responsibility for this and provided a significant stimulus.

We accept our obligations deriving from the Doha Mandate, especially to cut export subsidies and to improve market access for agricultural products.

We are ready to agree on the framework for these issues here in Cancún. Concrete stipulations should be adopted in Spring 2004 at the latest.

- The time has come to take important decisions on the new issues.

After years of preparation, it is now time to move ahead and begin serious negotiations on the four Singapore issues.

