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LITHUANIA

Statement by H.E. Mr Darius Jurgelevicius Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

It is an honor and a pleasure for me on behalf of the Lithuanian delegation to address the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization here in Cancún. It is also my privilege to present you with our opinions and ideas on the agenda of this important gathering.

The present situation, as it has never been before, puts an extraordinary responsibility on the activities of the WTO, as a truly universal organization. Just two years ago, in November 2001, the WTO Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, culminated in the starting of a new, broad and comprehensive round of negotiations. The need for a great deal of work on the scene of a world economic system and a simultaneous necessity to take adequate account of the interests of a broad range of countries has been widely recognized by the Declaration adopted in Doha. Thus, we have no doubts that the existing international trade system along with further liberalization and strengthening of its rules and at the same time allowing flexibilities for the most vulnerable countries, are to be gainful for all the participants. Therefore, today we have gathered again for a vitally important and momentous task – collective decisions, impetus and recommendations for the ongoing process. Our today's consolidated efforts should greatly contribute to the general trust and reliance on benefits of the global trade system.

In this regard, I should note with particular satisfaction the recent efforts of delegations in Geneva allowing us to reach an urgently needed decision on TRIPS and public health and proving assurances of Members' full responsibilities and commitments in respect of vital social and humanitarian problems. I would also like to welcome the most recent decision on the modalities of special least-developed countries' treatment in services negotiations. Moreover, we extend our greetings to Cambodia and Nepal having completed their accession procedures and soon becoming a part of a multilateral system.

Now turning back to the individual issues of the Doha Development Agenda, I feel obligated to express my country's views on the issues of particular importance.

Lithuania devotes a special attention to the agriculture negotiations. As for most Members, agriculture constitutes the most sensitive sector of our economy and is in need of a smooth reform process.

However, Lithuania fully recognizes the benefits of the substantial progressive liberalization and considers this round of negotiations as being a crucial step in the global reform process. With all those circumstances in mind, I am sure that we, jointly, will be able to come to a reform-friendly and adequate solution.

In this respect, Lithuania welcomes the so-called "framework" approach initiated and further elaborated by the joint EC-US proposal and partially reflected in the document of the Chairman of the General Council. This approach, in our mind, allows to accommodate the interests of most, if not all the countries. We are sure it reflects the most realistic and achievable level of ambitions at this stage