

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(03)/ST/121
13 September 2003

(03-4918)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fifth Session
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

Original: English

DENMARK

Statement by H.E. Dr Per Stig Møller
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Speaking on behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark including Greenland and the Faroe Islands, I would like to thank the Government of Mexico and the city of Cancún for hosting this Conference. My appreciations also go to you Mr Chairman, to the Director-General of the WTO, and to the Chairman of the General Council.

The global economy needs a successful round of trade negotiations. Here in Cancún, we must pave the way for progress in the Round. We have a historic opportunity to set the pace for a comprehensive outcome to the Round. That will not only help create free and fair trade. A successful meeting will be crucial to the ongoing efforts to restore confidence and to boost economic growth. It provides an opportunity of integrating developing countries in the world economy. And – not least – it will strengthen the WTO as one of the cornerstones of the international political scene. If we succeed we will contribute to a more powerful and stable world based on multilaterally agreed rules.

In theory, our task is simple. Two hundred years ago David Ricardo introduced his theory of comparative advantage. In practice, the task is more complicated. It is not just a question of harvesting the advantages to the detriment of others. The challenge is two-sided. We need to cooperate to maximize benefits. And we need to ensure that benefits are distributed in a manner that suits all parties and interests.

I am sure you have all had the following experience. You are watching an exciting football game. But in spite of nice and comfortable seats the persons in front of you constantly get on their feet to improve their view. inefficiency. At this Ministerial we have a responsibility for not falling into this trap.

Our will to compromise will establish the only way forward.

Developing countries should be given real opportunities for eliminating poverty and improving living conditions of their citizens. In this respect trade is a key instrument. Developing countries should have as unre(i-ih4(e)0ntri)-8n8(t)4ed g1-u5gs923lgw1(l)-(g)-5mark t(w1(ets)-8e)0ntwe ũ cocŕnve(co

developing countries in their efforts to capture new markets and strengthen
ones. In this context the necessity of translating trading opportunities into
and development should be underlined. For many developing countries aid

Liberalizing trade should go hand in hand with sustainable development. Promoting the environment does not mean creating barriers to trade. The combination of more trade and a better environment should be high on our agenda.

With regard to the social dimension of globalization, Denmark would like to see a strengthened cooperation between the WTO and the ILO. Although the social dimension of globalization is not part of our agenda, it is an important dimension that must be borne in mind.

Also I should like to mention the objective of transparency. We need openness in trade policy. This applies to the WTO as well as to Member States. Openness and public involvement are necessary elements if we aim to maintain support for global trade liberalization.

Finally, I would like to repeat my most sincere hopes that this Ministerial Conference will create the progress the world is waiting for. The WTO should become a symbol of progress and new opportunities for people in a more peaceful world. This can only happen if we are all willing to compromise and cooperate in a true global partnership where a fair and free market will be to the advantage of all of us.
