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BELIZE

Statement by the Honourable Eamon Courtenay
Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade

1. I thank you, Mr Chairman, and the Government of Mexico for hosting this Fifth Ministerial

since Doha; of where we are being induced to go; of where we must not go. He is right, it is time for stocktaking.

8. For insisting on stocktaking and not going blindly forward on a "rich country" agenda and a "road map" drawn up mainly in Washington and Brussels, poor countries have been accused of being "spoilers". I for one am willing to spoil the party if it is one that cooks the future of Belize and the developing world.

9. But genuine success here is still attainable. We can succeed if our final text includes appropriate provisions for smaller economies; if we recommit ourselves to special and differential treatment for developing countries; we can succeed if the text provides for the retention of preferences for an appropriate period of time; and if we provide for technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries. There is no consensus on launching negotiations on the Singapore issues – Belize is not ready to agree to such a launch. Above all, we must remain faithful to the Doha Development Agenda.

10. As delegates look out from their grand hotels on the peacock sea of the Caribbean I invite them to reflect on the fact that one legacy of European conflict and colonialism in and around these waters is economies that are all small and underdeveloped. Belize's population is around 250,000 - and we are five times the size of some Caribbean Island States. In that context, we see value in a global regime of rules and disciplines in trade. The rule of law is always more in the interest of the small and weak than the unbridled sway of power.

11. But that is not what the WTO has turned out to be for us. For any who question, let the sordid saga of bananas provide the answer. Power continues to hold sway. We know of what we speak.

12. And so do the ordinary people of the world who protest our proceedings. They serve a