

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**Fifth Session**  
**Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003**

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## SPAIN

### Statement by H.E. Mr Rodrigo de Rato y Figaredo Second Vice-President and Minister of the Economy

I should like to join previous speakers and express my appreciation for the efforts made by our hosts, with particular thanks to Ministers Derbez and Canales, who have made this Conference possible, as well as the citizens of Cancún and the state of Quintana Roo and their authorities.

Over the next few days we are going to face the challenge of taking another step towards the global liberalization of markets and strengthening of the rules that govern trade among our countries, at a time when the international situation is showing the first signs of an economic recovery. There can be little doubt that agreement on some of the ambitious objectives of the negotiations under the extensive Doha Programme would be a signal that the Development Round was advancing as envisaged. Doha set ambitious objectives and it is now time to mark out the path that will enable them to be met, the only path for turning the rhetoric into reality, as the Director-General of the WTO urged us at this morning's meeting.

The Cancún Ministerial Conference must give a resolute political impetus so as to guide these negotiations without precedent aimed at sustainable development. Although we are not yet going to start on negotiating the final results of the Round, we must hope that we will be able to establish solid foundations for the negotiations that will give the multilateral trading system a new structure that better meets the needs of all. In all our countries, free trade has shown that it is not a zero sum game. The efforts benefit all.

It is Spain's view that the draft declaration provides a sufficiently balanced global whole to accommodate the interests of all Members and makes it possible to continue complying with the Doha Mandate. I greatly appreciate the efforts made by all the chairpersons, of groups, committees and councils who have worked so hard to provide the elements needed to develop this draft Declaration before us and, in particular, the efforts made by the Chairman of the General Council and by the Director-General of the WTO.

The necessary agreement to be reached in Cancún will be preceded by a consensus of the utmost importance. The major contribution of the Doha Round was to incorporate development into our work as the basic reference for free trade. Just a few days ago, we gave a positive demonstration of the sensitivity of each and every one of the Members of the WTO, which has made it possible to

rules, the Singapore issues. There should also be a specific pro-development component, in accordance with the Doha Agreement, that aims to put the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of free trade. In this context, we consider that during this Conference we can agree on a significant number of improvements to special and differential treatment for developing countries and respond to concerns regarding the implementation of the Agreements, while at the same time pursuing negotiations on these issues.

As we have already advocated, our discussions at Cancún must be transparent for our societies and citizens. The participation of civil society, NGOs and all interested sectors ensures that our citizens understand our agreements. I should like to thank these organizations for their contribution.

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