

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
Fifth Session  
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

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## RWANDA

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Statement by H.E. Dr Alexandre Lyambabaje  
Minister of Commerce, Industry, Investment Promotion,  
Tourism and Cooperatives

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However, if the international community fails to act to set up a fairer, more equitable economic partnership, guaranteeing economic growth and job creation for our peoples, all of our efforts will have been in vain. My delegation reiterates its call for a strong commitment by developed countries to eliminate all export subsidies and remove all barriers to trade. We also urge developing countries to make the necessary sacrifices to promote and develop South-South trade.

Rwanda is absolutely convinced of the importance of trade in services for the economic development of our respective countries. Nevertheless, only those able to move freely and quickly from place to place will be able to take full advantage of this trade. At a time when the rich are increasingly frightened of their poorer neighbours, and in a world where some people travel without a visa and others are barred entry, how can we expect the latter to benefit from trade in services too? Marginally yes, but in full, no! For this reason, my delegation firmly believes that free movement of persons has to be guaranteed in the context of the negotiations on trade in services, with a view to eliminating all forms of arbitrary discrimination.

Allow me to conclude by expressing the hope that the Conference will be successful, success that features a renewed and genuine commitment to help improve the quality of life of the people of this planet, and to help lay the foundations for a better future for African farmers.

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