

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(03)/ST/21
11 September 2003

(03-4780)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fifth Session
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

Original: English

KUWAIT

Statement by H.E. Mr Abdullah A. Al-Tawil
Minister of Commerce and Industry

At the outset, I would like to convey on behalf of the Government of the State of Kuwait my sincere gratitude to the Government of Mexico for the excellent organization of this Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO and for the hospitality and warm reception given to us since our arrival. I also extend my congratulations to the Chairman of the Fifth Ministerial Conference and the Bureau Deputies, and wish them success in their endeavour.

I would also like to highlight the efforts made by the Director-General of the WTO and the Chairman of the General Council and to congratulate them on their work. The State of Kuwait takes this opportunity to welcome Cambodia and Nepal as new WTO Members and expresses confidence that both will be able to contribute toward the strengthening of the global trading system and defend the WTO rules and disciplines.

We have taken important decisions at the Doha Conference, of which I recall the pertaining to access to non-agricultural products, negotiations of trade in services, TRIPS Agreement and public health, expand the negotiation on agriculture. In addition, we have taken decisions pertaining to implementation issues, special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries and the clarification of WTO rules.

Looking at the issues and decisions that were taken at the Doha Conference, we feel there is a need to work diligently on these issues because they are affecting a wide sector of people, especially in developing countries and the least developed countries, which are still facing some technical and administrative difficulties in implementing WTO Agreements. Therefore, we have to emphasize the need for more technical assistance and enough time in order for us to legislate the necessary laws for the proper implementation of WTO agreements with full transparency.

The Doha Conference affirmed that the aim of conducting negotiation on trade in services is to enhance the economic development for the trading partners and to the development of developing and least developed countries.

Consequently, we emphasize what has been cited in paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the GATS Agreement, which states that the liberalization process needs to take into consideration the goals of national policies and the level of development across the various sectors.

We are aware that the services sector is the most important area where developing countries and the least developed countries are still suffering from the weakness of their economic structure. Therefore, the required liberalization process needs to take into consideration the national interest of the countries involved; noting that the State of Kuwait is one of the countries that rely on energy as a

source of its national income. Hence, we suggest the Council for Trade on Services to find a just classification for energy-services sector.

We encouraged and fully supported the adoption of the decision on the TRIPS Agreement and public health. What WTO needs to affirm is the availability of affordable medicines to treat diseases.

onsidercationwheie(onductingei1es 9z ahealth. Wha07924 Tc 0.6699 Tw marketaccsstnegoticationionnone) Tj1475.75 0 TD 0.0038 Tc 0 Tw (-) Tj 3.
onomlicin egrcationbetweeie allnconsrciss. Iie thei1es 9z a