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ISRAEL

Statement by H.E. Mr Ehud Olmert

Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Trade,

Labour and Communications

On behalf of the Government of the State of Israel, I would like to begin by thanking the United States of Mexico for the hospitality it has extended to us all. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Director-General of the WTO; Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi; the Chairman of the General Council, Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo and to WTO Secretariat, who have worked so hard to organize this meeting and who are facilitating a consensus on the Ministerial Declaration which is in front of us for discussion, here in Cancún.

This meeting, tha 026ign trade, as an engine for economic growth and fore, the expansion of international trade is a top priority.

continuous liberalization of international trade, investments and world e in moving the world towards economic growth, stability and increase ind we must not forget the emphasis we put on development when we on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Therefore, we must aim at their integrate developing countries and especially the least-developed trading system. This