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MADAGASCAR

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mejamirado Razafimihary
Minister of Industry, Trade and Development of the Private Sector

I deem it a privilege and a great honour to have the opportunity, on behalf of Madagascar, to address this august assembly of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

I should like first to echo other speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election. Your wisdom and experience are a guarantee of success for this Ministerial Conference.

approach. Indeed, the universal recognition that the poor countries have the right to participate in international trade will guarantee more and better integration on a sustainable basis. Furthermore, if every Member participates to the best of its means in the weeks to come, a decisive contribution will be made to reducing poverty.

I hope that this Cancún Conference will lead to a broad consensus on the current negotiations and those to come. Such an outcome can only be an incentive to our future undertakings.

However, better integration in multilateral trade means more production and, consequently, more productive investments. Hence the need for further encouragement of direct investment flows in our economies.

With that in mind, the Government of Madagascar has just put in place bold measures, to be implemented over two years, to encourage and facilitate national and international investment:

- Exemption from all duties and taxes, including value added tax, on imports of all capital goods needed for investment;
- the possibility for foreign investors to have access to real estate.

We therefore invite you to support us and respond to our offer.

Technical assistance too is impor