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Statement by H.E. Mr Arun Jaitley
Minister of Commerce and Industry and Law and Justice

1. I thank you, Mr Chairman, and your Government for hosting this 5th Ministerial Conference and for the excellent arrangements and hospitality.
2. India has very warm and friendly ties with both Nepal and Cambodia. Nepal is also our close neighbour. We applaud the accession of these two least developed countries to the WTO.
3. We welcome the recent decision of the General Council that would make it easier for poorer countries to import cheaper generic drugs if they are unable to manufacture the medicines themselves.

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particular interest to developing countries. But as we see it now, we are engulfed in a sense of deep disappointment that the development dimension envisaged under the Doha Work Programme has been given short shrift. In our view the draft Cancún Ministerial Text is grossly inadequate on implementation issues and would severely affect the interests of developing countries in agriculture, industrial tariffs and Singapore issues. We cannot escape the conclusion that it does not accommodate the legitimate aspirations of developing countries and instead, seeks to project and advance the views of certain developed countries.

7. The progress achieved on implementation issues belies the understanding that Ministerial commitments once taken will be honoured. Negotiations on outstanding implementation issues were agreed to be "an integral part of the Work Programme" and were required to be addressed "as a matter of priority". Yet, all the time-lines set at Doha for their resolution have been breached. On certain issues even the mandate itself has been questioned. To make matters worse, the draft Ministerial text accords low priority to these issues. It does not envisage any time-frame for taking decisions for resolving outstanding issues. This is in sharp contrast to the issues of interest to developed countries for which time-lines have been provided for taking decisions. If we do not restore the priority accorded to the outstanding implementation issues, the developing countries would be forced to conclude that the "development" element in the Doha Development Agenda is only rhetoric. Let it not be said in respect of implementation issues that "often expectation fails and most often there,

14. Countries at different stages of development have viewed competition issues differently based on the effects they have on their economies. Convergence in views can arise only between countries at similar stages of development. The WTO membership is too diverse to admit a framework that suits all. Further work needs to be done on understanding elements in competition such