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UGANDA

Statement by the Honourable Professor Edward B. Rugumayo
Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry

1. On behalf of the Uganda delegation, allow me to thank you on the way you have presided over this Fifth Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference, and through you to thank the Government and people of Mexico for the warm reception and hospitality extended to my delegation and I believe all delegations present here. Through you, I would also like to extend condolences from my Government and delegation to the Government and people of Sweden upon the death of their Foreign Minister who was my dear colleague. In addition, I would like to be mindful that this work was specifically designed to

work programme. Indeed although the WTO is not a Development Agency, we are about to reach should be very mindful of these, in particular, contribute towards the creation of wealth and therefore reduce poverty for

3. The least developed countries continue to experience declining economy, a factor that has greatly contributed to increasing poverty in those countries, which contradicts the objective of the WTO in that there is declining volume of demand in those countries.

4. The Doha Development Agenda should meaningfully aim at ensuring that all countries be equal and fully participating partners in global trade. This is possible through actions and provisions that address the development concerns of those who

5. Agriculture is the mainstay of most developing economies. It provides a livelihood for about 90 per cent of our population. It is a major development concern. For there to be meaningful benefits and ma

commitments and from increasing our binding coverage. Tariffs are the only viable development tool and policy instrument we can use to direct our industrialization and generate the revenues required to catalyze economic growth.

7. Uganda welcomes those bilateral initiatives by developed countries that grant easier market access to products from the poor countries. We would like to see these opportunities made more predictable through binding under the WTO System.

8. Trade in services is increasing its importance to Uganda's national economy. It plays a very significant role in facilitating numerous other areas of our economic activity and of recent the service sector has become a substantial contributor to our GDP. In view of the above, we are of the strong view that the WTO develops a mechanism to make Article IV of GATS more effective rather than just "a best endeavour" clause. The WTO should also improve commitments under mode 4 of supply to provide greater access to foreign markets for, service suppliers and develop a mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification and licensing requirements.

9. We welcome the recent consensus reached on TRIPS and Public Health. This ensures that our people will have access to affordable medicines at all times. We must build on this positive outcome.