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EL SALVADOR

Statement by H.E. Mr Miguel E. Lacayo
Minister of Economy

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of El Salvador, I wish to express gratitude for the warm reception and the courtesies and kind attentions paid to our delegation by the Government and people of Mexico, on the occasion of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. I also wish to say what a great honour it is for me once again to meet here with Ministers from the other Member States of this Organization.

We are here among other things to evaluate compliance with the commitments undertaken during our last meeting in Qatar, where we launched the present round of negotiations, to pay due attention to implementation-related issues, to ensure special and differential treatment and to give the necessary political direction to topics on which, in technical terms, no progress has been possible, in accordance with the guidelines we agreed at our last Ministerial Meeting, particularly in the field of agriculture.

El Salvador supports the launch of the present Round on the understanding that the negotiations maintain a balance in all areas, so that all WTO Members discern a positive and balanced outcome from the present Round. This balance would strengthen the cred
in 2002.

In order to consolidate these efforts, it is necessary that the public
convinced that trade liberalization systems really do give rise to comp
population. It is important for our populations to perceive the link
liberalization and the social and economic well-being of our peoples.

International trade as a development tool must benefit each and e
developing countries, but it is essential for that purpose to ensure mark
eliminate subsidies and to support developing countries through
capacity-building, which must be geared to facilitating concrete projects
existence of export opportunities for small- and medium-sized enterpri
output and improvements in agricultural prices for small farmers, enha
standard of living.

We continue to maintain, as we have consistently said on other occasions, that the multilateral trading system must be regarded not as a set of theo