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LESOTHO

Statement by the Honourable Mpho Meli Malie
Minister of Trade, Industry and Marketing

Allow me on behalf of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, and on my own behalf, to express our appreciation for the kind hospitality graciously afforded us by the Government of the Republic of Mexico. The facilities afforded delegations surely immensely contribute to our discussions on substantive matters.

Cognizant of Article IV(2) of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), which quoted in part, reads, "In the intervals between meetings of the Ministerial Conference, its functions shall be conducted by the General Council". We wish to emphasize the importance with which we view instructions of the Ministerial Conference. At the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar, specific work was mandated to various bodies of the WTO, with specific time-frames for that work to be completed. To our grave disappointment the time-frames were not adhered to. This trend is unacceptable.

We welcome the Decision of the General Council, upon recommendation of the Council for TRIPS, of 30 August 2003, pursuant to the mandate contained in paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. Further, we welcome the Chairman of the General

technical cooperation's relevance to be enhanced, the increased involvement of local consultations and regional trade organizations must be encouraged.

As we recall with profound sadness, the unfortunate events of 11 September 2001, allow me to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion I wish to reiterate my Government's unwavering support to the rules-based multilateral trading system and the completion of the Doha Round before the 1 January 2005.
