

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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## LUXEMBOURG

Statement by H.E. Mrs Lydie Polfer  
Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Allow me first to thank you for so kindly welcoming us to this perfect place, and also for hosting the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO - it has to be admitted that since Seattle, embarking on such a venture amounts to a feat of bravery. We have all come here to Cancún with two goals: to defend the interests and positions of our respective countries and to join forces in seeking satisfactory responses to the challenges of globalization.

To be in a position to find those responses, we must build relationships based on reciprocal knowledge, trust, support and mutual respect. We must learn to leave national egoism aside and demonstrate our solidarity, since a multilateral trade system is just and fair only if it enables everyone, particularly developing countries, to benefit from it.

We have come a long way since Seattle. One by one we have come to realise that to take account of the economic dimension alone is not enough to build the kind of healthy framework in which multilateral rules can be developed for the liberalization of trade. We have realized that survival of the fittest is no basis for trade and that even the smallest voice must be heard!

At Doha, we succeeded in making development the focus of our work and reached agreement on a real development programme. Luxembourg fully endorses the objectives set on that occasion and, incidentally, earmarks more than 0.8 per cent of its national wealth for official development assistance, in the conviction that international trade and development aid must support each other mutually.

With regard to the Doha Programme, I of course welcome the recent agreement on TRIPS and public health. It is a clear sign of our shared determination to find solutions to very difficult situations. But we must be under no illusions: essential as it may be, the agreement addresses only the purely commercial aspects of the issues and will not rid the world of the AIDS scourge overnight. That will require joint efforts by the international community in other areas.

I note with satisfaction that good progress has been made in recent months on the implementation of special and differential treatment. I am confident that some essential issues still

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