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HUNGARY

Statement by H.E. Dr Peter Gottfried
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Let me express first of all our deepest sympathy with our Swedish colleagues for the death of Minister Anna Lindt. She was an outstanding politician, a great personality and a friend of my country as it was demonstrated many times including our accession negotiations to the European Union. We shall miss her.

On behalf of the government of Hungary let me express my sincere appreciation to the Mexican Government for the hospitality and excellent working conditions provided for the Ministerial Conference.

Hungary is committed to a liberal trade policy. Our accession to the European Union will result in further market opening and we will continue to be fully engaged to take our part in the multilateral efforts for reducing trade barriers and shaping a multilateral trading system responsive to new challenges and beneficial to all participants.

Let me note with appreciation the recent decision on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. It was encouraging that on the eve of our meeting, WTO Members demonstrated their collective responsibility by finding solution to a particularly important issue. Indeed, one may learn from this exercise, by identifying some key ingredients of success. May I mention four such as:

- balance of rights and obligations;
- contribution by all, but respect for the differences in economic development;
- focus on the development dimension by assisting those in need;
- and keeping the integrity of the multilateral system.

We hope that these elements will be duly borne in mind throughout the Doha Development Agenda negotiating process.

I would like to commend the efforts of the Chairman of the General Council, for he produced, in close cooperation with the Director-General, a Draft Ministerial Text that seems to provide us a suitable basis for discussion. Set against the above referred parameters, the text would, however, still need to be refined in some areas.

Concerning agriculture the proposed framework in the field of domestic support seems to some degree overlook the often considerable differences between various forms of subsidies in terms of their actual trade-distorting effects. In light of their envisaged significant limitation we do not see the need to reduce blue box types of support further than it is contained in the EC-US joint proposal.

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