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CHILE

Statement Circulated by Mr. José Miguel Insulza,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

1. First of all, I should like to express the sincere gratitude of the Government of Chile to the WTO Secretariat for the hard work carried out to prepare this Conference and to the Swiss authorities for their collaboration. We know it has not been an easy task. Over the 17 months that have gone by since we last met in Singapore, the Organization's Membership has grown and now counts over 130 countries with 35 observer governments. This level of participation appeared unobtainable 50 years ago when 23 countries concluded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Chile is proud of having been one of the original signatories to the Agreement and of having participated actively during the half-century of existence of GATT and its successor, the WTO. As the Director-General, Mr. Renato Ruggiero, recently emphasized, the development of the multilateral trading system makes it possible to envisage

5. We value the trade policy review mechanism as a way of strengthening the transparency of Members' trade policies and providing information on the actual trends in such policies, irrespective of their compliance with the WTO's disciplines. Chile's policy was reviewed for the second time last year and this exercise allowed us to systematize information on all our WTO-related trade policy.

6. Despite all the progress made in the multilateral trading system, it has to be recognized that there remain deficiencies or lacunae which restrict trade in goods and services. One recurring practice is the use of non-tariff barriers to trade. These take the form of environmental measures, technical, sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, which may intrinsically be legitimate and necessary, but their use for protectionist purposes seriously impairs the advantages derived from the Agreements. In this connection, Chile notes with concern that countervailing duties and anti-dumping measures, instituted as mechanisms to parry unfair competition, have repeatedly been used as protectionist barriers to legitimate trade. We are also concerned by the growing use of