# WORLD TRADE

# ORGANIZATION

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## VIET NAM

Statement by H.E. Mr. Truong Dinh Tuyen,
Minister of Trade
(As an Observer)


It is a great honour and pleasure for me to represent Viet Nam at this WTO Ministerial Conference and the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the multilateral trading system. Both occasions are great events but of the same signification since they mark the tremendous progress of the multilateral trading system toward achieving its objectives.

At this Conference, Ministers will review the implementation of the WTO Agreements in the very first years of existence of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is also foreseen that Ministers, at the threshold of the new century, will applaud the contributions that the system has made over a half-century of evolution. More importantly, Ministers will forge a vision for the future of international trade and map out the future course of the Organization with a view to improving the system to meet the expectations of the world economy. Hence, this occasion will reiterate the indispensable role of the WTO in the world economic and



customs territories as its Members while 31 others have applied for or in negotiation for accession. The Organization has also expanded beyond the traditional coverage of trade in goods to other areas and thus brought under its rulings constantly increasing volume of international trade. Its prime value lays in the fact that the system has, proved successful in giving momentum to global and individual Member growth and making contributions to the enhanced trade relations among nations.

Looking beyond the future, I am confident that the system will evolve further in terms of both scope and coverage, and contribute even more to the economic growth of all countries, including countries which have not yet been accounted as a Member of the Organization. In this session, the right decisions of the Ministers will be made with a view to fostering a fairer trading system and an enhancing prosperity of Members.

I firmly believe that the multilateral trading system will maintain its commitment to achieve the underlying objectives and principles set from its early days. A fair trading system is the one that enables active participation and contribution of all Members. The past several years have witnessed considerable efforts made by the developing countries and least-developed countries to contribute to the system. However, it is essential that the developed countries accord them differential and more favourable treatment in respect of obligations and commitments, effective assistance through concrete

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measures improving market access conditions for their goods, technical assistance for human capacity building etc., which are in line with their development needs.

Along with the evolution of the WTO, the applications of 31 countries and customs territories to join the Organization is another sign showing its credibility. The accession of these countries will only strengthen the Organization and prove its true universality.

Fully aware of the privacy of the multilateral trading system, Viet Nam is doing its utmost efforts to contribute to the WTO. Committing ourselves to adhere to the principles of the Organization, Viet Nam is consistently pursuing an open-door for further integrating our economy with the world. We are also intensifying the preparation with a view to accelerating the accession process and also to faithfully implementing our commitments subsequently.

For that purpose, we seek comprehensive support and understanding from the Members of the WTO to make ourselves a respectful Member of this strong, universal community and we hope that Viet Nam will be subsequently bring in a positive contribution to the system.

I would like to close my remarks by congratulating you Mr. Chairman for your excellent chairmanship. I am confident that, under your leadership, this occasion will be made a successful and memorable event.

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