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Statement Circulated by H.E. Mr. A. Baltas,  
Vice-Minister

Over the last 50 years of the multilateral trading system, we have seen considerable progress towards the liberalization of commercial exchanges. This is the framework in which trade liberalization is evolving. Nevertheless, much remains to be done for the achievement of the objectives set out in the preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO, particularly as regards

Allow me also to draw your attention to the close links between agricultural policy and the environment. Trade liberalization and the reform of agricultural policies frequently impinge on the relationship between agriculture and the environment. Their impact is complex and not necessarily positive. For that reason, an overall approach should be developed to the analysis of the nature of those links. In this connection, particular attention should be paid to the least-developed regions, particularly in countries where agriculture serves to prevent internal migration.

Public health, food security and consumer protection should be central to our concerns. We must guarantee an appropriate level of sanitary and phytosanitary safety without creating unnecessary trade barriers. Scientific support, risk evaluation and respect for transparency form part of the mechanism best suited to ensuring this equilibrium. However, we observe a proliferation of the dangers arising from the production methods used today. We must offer consumers an appropriate level of protection and take account of their concerns.

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