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Statement by H.E. Dr. Ahmed A. Goueili,
Minister of Trade and Supply

I would like to start my statement by acknowledging that the Second Ministerial Conference acquires special importance, not only because it coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the multilateral trading system (MTS), but because it is a good opportunity for the assessment of the implementation of force in January 1995.

In this context, we strongly believe that the full implementation of these Agreements is a necessity to ensure the credibility and the effectiveness of the multilateral trading system, as well as guaranteeing the integration of the developing countries in this system and avoiding their marginalization.

When we negotiated the Uruguay Round Agreements,

- the modest implementation of the special and differential provisions in favour of developing countries as provided in the WTO Agreements.

In this context, we would like to request that a separate part of the WTO annual report be devoted to follow up the status of the process of implementation in all areas under WTO with a view to assessing the difficulties and propose the recommendations for remedies.

Allow me now to touch upon some other important areas of interest to us, we look upon transitional periods and the enhancement of technical and financial

the same time, we believe that the next Ministerial Conference should take place in the year 2000, taking into consideration the limitation of human and financial resources of the developing countries and in order to provide enough time for the complete implementation of the present Agreements,

At the same time, we would like to reaffirm our clear position regarding any new conditionality or protectionist initiative such as labour standards, rejecting any linkage between trade and these standards, this issue is under the mandate of the ILO.

Let me conclude by confirming that as long as there is good faith and political will to serve "MTS" in order to achieve its objectives, this system will allow all participants to gain its fruits and benefits as an equitable mechanism based on openness and transparency.

Finally, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Swiss Government for its hospitality and the well-organized work which helped to the successfulness of such important events.
