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Statement circulated by H.E. Mr. Nicos Rolandis
Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

I am particularly happy to represent the Republic of Cyprus at the second Ministerial meeting since the signing at Marrakesh of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

I would like at the outset to congratulate the Swiss Government on their hard work and dedication in organizing this Conference and thank them for their hospitality and friendship.

We believe Geneva was the best choice of a city to hold these important events, the Ministerial Conference as well as the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Multilateral Trading System.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express my highest appreciation to the Director-General of the WTO, Mr. Renato Ruggiero, and his staff for their efforts and

With regard to intellectual property, a new Trademarks and Patent legislation has recently been enacted bringing it into conformity with the TRIPS Agreement.

It is a particular pleasure to confirm that

While a great number of member countries are gathered here in Geneva, some important trading countries such as Russia, China and others are still waiting to join the WTO. We hope that the ongoing procedure for their membership is completed at the soonest.

Let me close with the hope that this Conference will mark the continuation of 50 years of efforts in the multilateral trading liberalization process in a spirit of openness to the challenges ahead of us, motivated by the confident knowledge that economic growth is achieved by consensus, to everyone's advantage.

It must now be the era of conciliation and collaboration for the common good of mankind. We must work, in real partnership, to promote the economic and social development for the stability and prosperity of all the countries