

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 03.10.2012

Statement by Pakistan

Madam Chairperson,

We welcome the Russian Federation and Vanuatu for attending the first meeting of the General Council after completion of their accession process. We expect that we will welcome Lao PDR and Yemen this year as new Members of the WTO. I also take this opportunity to welcome 14 new Ambassadors/Heads of Delegations recently arrived at Geneva and are attending the first meeting of the General Council.

3. Thank you, Pascal for giving a report to the membership about the state of play of negotiations and movements at the international and multilateral levels.

4. A well organized Public Forum was held in the WTO recently. A cross section of stakeholders acknowledged the importance and much desired momentum at the multilateral level and also realized a paradigm shift in the global economy. We are also eagerly awaiting the report of the panels of experts, who are engaged in deliberating the future of trade. During an interaction with the Members, views were expressed that future of trade was definitely closely linked with the past and the issues already on the table in the Doha mandate. The guidance provided by the Ministers during last year's Ministerial is still valid.

5. This year during summer, we were able to develop convergence to develop a flexible accession process for LDC, which was approved by the General Council. Although it has been a slow process to complete negotiations on development related issues like Monitoring Mechanism and some agreements specific proposals, the process is moving in the right direction. Similarly, negotiations on the new multilateral agreement on Trade Facilitation are on-going, which has the potential of convergence once the differences amongst Members are addressed with an open mind. Recently, Brazil, on behalf of G-20 Members introduced a proposal on strengthening quota management in Agriculture, based

on an annex of the modality on Agriculture, which was not kept in the square brackets. Although certain Members have systemic concerns, Brazilian proposal can be a good basis as a starting point for discussion in the relevant Negotiating Group. In my view, the three elements of the Doha Round can move together for an early harvest this year, without waiting for the next year's Ministerial.

6. Provisional and definitive implementation in these areas may generate momentum to take up further issues in the Doha Development Agenda.

7. Food security, though mostly considered as non trade issue, remains a concern of food deficit country. We remained engaged on this issue last year before the WTO Ministerial but did not find any consensus. We may begin our deliberations on this issue in an appropriate setting. In the backdrop of rising of prices of Agricultural commodities and less than optimum production of certain grains, this year the issue of food security may remain in our radar. Besides, import content in the manufactured goods is rising and may become 60% in the next decade. The global value change is a reality, which requires addressing the border and behind the border measures. Though this will be important for the growth of the global GDP and employment, developing countries have concerns. It will be difficult for them to move up the ladder of value addition. This may require a paradigm shift in trade policies of all countries. They require support of technology, investment and policy space to support, promote efficiency, physical and legal infrastructure. This is a complex area, which would require in depth analysis and to disseminate, initially, non-binding best practices for guidance for those members, who are still not fully engaged in the global value chain. Since this is a cross cutting area of deliberations, may require the WTO to institute a mechanism of deliberations.

Thank you.