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Statement Circulated by H.E. Mr Tsutomu Takebe
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

1. I wish to extend my most sincere gratitude to the State of Qatar for hosting this important conference. My thanks also go to the WTO Secretariat, the city of Doha, the Organizing Committee, as well as all who have made vigorous efforts to convene this conference.
2. Today, while globalization of economy and culture progresses rapidly, the international society faces a number of challenges. In this connection, I believe that the importance of the multilateral trading system that is embodied in the WTO will become greater ever more. For example, the instability of global supply and demand of food remains unchanged even after the implementation of the Uruguay Round commitments, as demonstrated by a fact that surplus of food accumulates in developed countries, while more than 800 million people mainly in developing countries are still suffering from malnutrition. In order to establish a multilateral trading system that can properly address the various problems in the 21st Century, including economic development of the developing countries as well as the global food security I described above, the launch of a new round that reflects the diverse interests of each Member is called for more than anything today. In addition, the launch of a new round will give a strong impetus to the negotiations on agriculture which has been conducted as a built-in-agenda since last year.
3. As the minister who is responsible for the stable supply of agricultural, forestry and fishery products to the people, I would like to emphasize two points here.
4. First, I firmly believe that the 21st Century should be an era of peace, dignity and mutual respect, and that the various nations and regions of the international community should coexist and mutually respect each country's specific values based on their historical and cultural backgrounds. Agriculture is the foundation of society in every country, and it provides a variety of functions that are beneficial to the society. As there are differences in the natural conditions and the historical background from one country to another, I think that the diversity and coexistence of agriculture among various countries need to be preserved. Various functions of agriculture towards different non-trade concerns, such as food security, rural development and the environment, cannot be obtained through foreign trade but only through agricultural activities in each country. In this regard, Mr Chairman, it is essential that the negotiations on agriculture should be conducted based upon the fundamental philosophy of the "coexistence of various types of agriculture", and that the results of the negotiations should be balanced and acceptable for every country.
5. Second, Mr Chairman, I am convinced that the multilateral trading system should take full account of such viewpoints as global environmental problems and sustainable development. In this regard, as for the resources that are renewable but can be depleted without proper management, such as forestry and fishery resources, it is essential to establish a set of trade rules and disciplines which contributes to the sustainable utilization of such resources through the promotion of adequate resource

conservation and management. Such rules and disciplines shall be fair and equitable both for exporting and importing countries.

6. To conclude, Mr Chairman, I sincerely hope that we can launch a new round of trade negotiations that reflect diverse interests of each Member, and agree on the framework for the negotiations with which we can discuss desirable trade rules taking account of the coexistence of various types of agriculture as well as sustainable utilization of natural resources. I pledge that Japan would devote itself entirely to this end.
