



15 June 2022

(22-4672)

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**Ministerial Conference
Twelfth Session
Geneva, 12-15 June 2022**

Original: English

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MINISTER OF ECONOMY**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

I wish to join other delegations in thanking the Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of Switzerland for their hospitality and the organization of this meeting.

The United Arab Emirates is one of the world's most open economies for trade and investment. Over the past few years, we have conducted an unprecedented series of structural reforms to further enhance competitiveness and make the business environment more stable and predictable. Today, trade represents an ever increasingly important means of creating jobs and prosperity to our population.

The UAE has always been a staunch supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its center. We all have a shared responsibility to safeguard the multilateral trading system by injecting stability and building resilience.

We should revive the dispute settlement process and move expeditiously with filling vacancies in the Appellate Body. We also should adopt effective solutions for fisheries subsidies and non-violation complaints under TRIPS. The special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing countries continues to be a defining feature of this system and it must be preserved.

Moreover, we must work together to safeguard trade and protect the most vulnerable from the effects of ongoing supply chain disruptions. This requires ensuring the seamless flows of food, vaccines, essential medical goods, and critical supplies from/to all countries and increasing MSME participation in the global value chains (GVCs).

There are other areas that require our collective focus, too, as the world shifts to embrace digitalization and the fourth industrial revolution. Issues such as knowledge-sharing, the free flow of human capital and technology, and digital trade rules will need to be addressed if we want to make sure our global trading system is adaptable, future-proofed, and fit for purpose.

The WTO provides the central framework to tackle the complex challenges and manage the significant transformations facing world trade. Our Conference today comes at a critical time for the multilateral trading system and the decisions we make here will have a lasting impact on the global economy for years to come. It will require vigorous leadership, but it also is what the world expects us to do.

The UAE firmly believes that we have the obligation to deliver a more inclusive future for global trade—one that is built on trust and cooperation. We support the WTO and want to work together to shape a stronger, sustainable, more inclusive global economy that benefits all people. It is critical that we place environmental sustainability, food security, and health front and center in our decision-making.

We look forward to engaging in a constructive and positive spirit with all members on these critical discussions. Moreover, the UAE is ready to participate in the Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation to ensure greater transparency, predictability, and efficiency of international trade in services.

Finally - before I conclude my intervention - I would like to express, on behalf of the UAE government, my country's keen interest in hosting the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi. The UAE has been the host of major global events, constantly showing its ability to deliver world-class meetings on international policy. We are honored to seek and count on your support to host MC13 and advance the multilateral trade agenda together.
