

OMC/ Les observations finales de la conférence de Bali

Chairman Gita Wirjawan, Indonesia's trade minister: 'We did it!'

Fellow Ministers, ladies and gentlemen — we did it!

We achieved what many said could not be done.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told us on Tuesday that the mystique of Bali would have a positive effect on our negotiations. This is the place where deals get done. I am delighted that Bali has not let us down.

Congratulations to you all. Congratulations on focusing not only on national interest, but also on the common good. Congratulations on persevering through long hours of negotiations to reach this historic deal. Congratulations on not only keeping the Doha Development Agenda alive, but giving us all new energy and new confidence to conclude the Doha Round.

What we have done here in Bali is truly extraordinary. We have negotiated a package that will bring food security to billions of the world's poorest. We have delivered an Agreement on Trade Facilitation that will inject up to a trillion dollars into the world economy. And we have agreed a ground-breaking suite of initiatives to help Least Developed Countries benefit more from the multilateral trading system.

After many long hours of negotiation, we the ministers of the WTO, have agreed to provide flexibility for developing countries to implement vital food security programs. We have agreed there is a need to change the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture, which will take time. In the interim period, the decision we have taken here in Bali will allow developing countries to avoid disputes over their legitimate food security programs.

The trade facilitation agreement is the first ever multilateral agreement negotiated in the WTO. It will reduce the cost of trading, smooth the flow of goods across borders and provide more certainty for business. It will benefit all members, but particularly developing countries, which will have access to assistance to improve their systems and procedures. Most of the economic benefit from trade facilitation will flow to developing countries.

Least developed countries will also benefit from increased access to markets for goods and services in developed countries. Preferential rules of origin will make it easier for LDCs to export their goods. And other outcomes in the areas of cotton and monitoring of special and differential treatment will also bring significant benefits and lay the groundwork for further gains in these areas.

These are historic achievements. We have crossed the finish line in Bali, but the race is not yet over — now we must complete the Doha Round. We must take the energy and optimism we have gained here and apply it in Geneva.

There is still much to do. Some of the issues we have discussed here in Bali remain to be solved. In this regard, we have instructed our negotiators to prepare a clearly defined work program on the remaining Doha Development Agenda issues. This plan will build on the decisions taken in Bali, particularly on trade facilitation, agriculture, development and LDC issues.

Through our actions here in Bali, we have reaffirmed the WTO's role as the pre-eminent forum for multilateral trade negotiations. It is only through multilateral agreements that many of the poorest and most vulnerable countries can truly benefit from international trade. So what we do in the WTO is vital.

Allow me to offer again my sincere thanks to the Ministers who have assisted me so ably as Vice-Chairmen, the Chairman of the General Council, the WTO Secretariat, and each of the Ministers and delegations representing their Governments at this Ministerial Conference for their hard work over these past four days.

And thank you most of all to Roberto Azevedo, Director-General of the WTO. It is your vision and leadership that has made the Bali package possible. The energy you have brought to these negotiations has made all the difference. Please join me in thanking Roberto.

Let me again quote a famous phrase by Nelson Mandela, which seems appropriate for what we have lived here: "it always seems impossible, until it's done".

We have achieved all we set out to achieve this week. The mystique of Bali has embraced our work, now let it embrace our souls. I hope you still have an opportunity to enjoy delights of this truly magical island. As the DG said at the opening ceremony, Bali is the morning of the world. Let me embellish it: Bali has given a new morning to the World Trade Organization.

I now declare the Ninth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO closed.

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo: 'World back in WTO'

In recent weeks the WTO has come alive. We have seen this organization the way it should be. Negotiating. Dynamic. Working hard to get an agreement. Working through weekends (and through the weeks!). Working through the night.

Seeking common ground, finding innovative solutions, making compromises. We have not seen such effort and engagement for a long, long time. And in recent weeks we have lived up to our name. Instead a non-inclusive and non-transparent process, this time the entire membership came together to negotiate.

We have put the "World" back into the "World Trade Organization".

I am very proud of that — particularly because this approach did not prevent us from making progress. In fact it served to strengthen the progress we made.

Our developed and least-developed members played their full role in these negotiations — helping to shape a package which strongly serves their interests.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to say that, for the first time in our history: the WTO has truly delivered.

I challenged you all, here in Bali, to show the political will we needed to take us across the finish line.

You did that. And I thank you for it.

With these measures on trade facilitation, agriculture and development, we have achieved something very significant.

People all around the world will benefit from the package you have delivered here today: the businesses community; the unemployed and the underemployed; the poor; those who rely on food security schemes; developing country farmers; developing country cotton growers; and the least-developed economies as a whole.

But beyond that: we have reinforced our ability to support growth and development; we have strengthened this organization; and we have bolstered the cause of multilateralism itself.

I would like to echo the words of Ambassador Omar Hilale of Morocco, who said yesterday, “this package is not an end — it is a beginning”.

As a consequence of our progress here we will now be able to move forward on the other areas of our work, which have been stalled for so long.

With the Bali package you have reaffirmed not just your commitment to the WTO — but also to the delivery of the Doha Development Agenda.

The decisions we have taken here are an important stepping stone towards the completion of the Doha round.

And it is very welcome that you have instructed us to prepare, within the next 12 months, a clearly defined work program to this end.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work here in Bali.

And I would also like to welcome the accession of the Republic of Yemen, which you approved this week.

Yemen will be our 160th member — and our 35th LDC [least developed country] member. It is a further, positive step towards universality.

I would also like to pay tribute once again to President Yudhoyono, and to the Government and people of Indonesia for hosting this Ministerial Conference in such an exemplary fashion.

The WTO community owes you a debt of gratitude.

I would like to thank ministers and heads of state in capitals around the world for their help. They are as much a part of this as ourselves.

I would like to sincerely thank once more the ministers and delegates here today.

I would like to thank the ambassadors in Geneva for their hard work over many weeks and months

I would like to express my renewed thanks to the chairs of the negotiating groups, and to the Secretariat, my team, and the Deputy Directors-General for their tremendous efforts.

Since this is an occasion to thank people who have made this possible, I would like to thank my wife Lele.

And finally I would like thank Minister Gita Wirjawan for his able chairmanship, and for his tireless support, political acumen, and dedication to the task throughout this process.

You have been critical to the success of this conference — and this package.

So, Minister, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this ceremonial gavel as a token of our thanks. I'm glad that we have given you a good reason to use it!

Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I sought the role of Director-General of the WTO because I believe in the multilateral trading system — not for its own sake, but because of what it stands for:

- a system which gives life to the very ideal of multilateralism;
- and a system which, this week, I am proud to say, has been strengthened and safeguarded for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to recall some of Nelson Mandela's words which are, I think, particularly appropriate today. He once said:

"It always seems impossible, until it's done."

Ladies and gentlemen, the Bali package may have frequently seemed impossible, but now it is done.

And we all really did deliver here and now.

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