

**OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING
STATEMENT BY Kursad Tuzmen
Minister of State
TURKEY
13-14 May, 2004
PARIS**

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General of the WTO,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To start with, I would like to express my gratitude to the OECD Secretariat and to the Mexican colleagues for their devoted time and efforts in organizing this meeting and my appreciation for all participants for their contributions.

My sincere belief is that our gathering here at this Meeting represents a timely and a momentous occasion not only for the global economy as a whole but especially for the multilateral trade negotiations at the WTO.

Stemming from its analytical and objective approaches and expertise in international economic and trade issues, the role OECD plays in the global arena has always been significant. I believe we are all in a position to make use of this Ministerial Meeting to send a decisive message to the world and show our determination to successfully conclude the process that we started at Doha.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Having said that, allow me to touch upon briefly on Turkey's general approach to the present situation of the negotiations and our expectations for this process, then dwell upon some specific items of the Doha Development Agenda.

We left Cancun with a consensus that all members should continue to work on outstanding issues months ago. However, the progress so far, I regret to say, is far from reflecting the expectations. At this stage, we should act in a mood of shared responsibility and flexibility

in order to move forward and reach a common ground. Towards that end, the recent letter from the two distinguished EU Commissioners that coincides with our Meeting is another example of commitment.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Although there has been no formal mandate for concluding a framework agreement by mid-summer, I observe a general understanding towards that end.

In order to inject momentum into the process, Turkey favors the adoption of a text, based on a common understanding. At this point, it is critical to ensure that a framework agreement should be balanced and reflect the general understanding particularly in the most problematic areas. More importantly, a framework agreement would better not include specific numbers and dates to ensure convergence and to meet our time constraint.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

When we look at the overall picture of the negotiations, agriculture seems to be the most contentious area. This has also been emphasized by the Chair of the Trade Committee in his message to the Ministers as movement on agriculture is the key for breaking the present impasse. Agricultural sector, regardless of levels of development is still considered vital by all countries for various reasons. Not surprisingly, this makes progress hard to move forward. However, we believe that a window is still open to bridge existing gaps towards a conclusion. Having this in mind, a set of balanced modalities that each and every member could benefit should be our mutual task to overcome existing obstacles. Turkey considers elimination of all trade distorting supports and export subsidies on the one hand and maintenance of special and differential treatment for developing countries on the other as necessary components of a balanced package. In this context, recent developments yielding progress to eliminate export subsidies is encouraging.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The market access negotiations for non-agricultural products is another key component of the Doha Round.

The Doha Ministerial Declaration by providing an ambitious mandate to negotiate tariffs and non-tariff barriers for non-agricultural products, presents an opportunity to obtain a substantial outcome.

In this regard, we are of the view that any modalities to be adopted for the tariff reductions should help removal of disparities among the WTO members and expansion of global trade and prosperity. In formulation of modalities, we should not lose sight of achieving meaningful market openness while incorporating exceptions into them.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

After Cancun, we follow the technical consultations on Singapore issues with attention. It seems that there is a tendency to launch the negotiations on trade facilitation instead of a full coverage with single undertaking.

Turkey views that each and every Singapore issue should be assessed within its own merits. I would like to express that we are ready to extend flexibility in this area and to work with all countries in a constructive dialogue.

On this occasion, I wish to underline once again the need for strengthening the coherence between trade and investment policies where the developing countries could gain from increased investment flows in a globalized economy.

In services, Turkey as actively and constructively engaged in the negotiations so far, believes that some additional steps have to be taken by some developing countries.

Taking into consideration that liberalization in services sector is indispensable for promoting growth and global welfare, I would like to invite all countries to continue negotiations in a positive manner.

And lastly, regarding the negotiations on rules, there is a need of progress especially on some systemic issues. Although there is a good basis built since Doha, we look forward to having more substantive discussions in the coming months.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I would like to conclude my words by expressing my conviction that this Ministerial Meeting and the future role of OECD will mark an important step in strengthening our pledges towards the conclusion of our Doha mandate in a reasonable time frame.

Thank you.