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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

STATEMENT BY

H.E. A. VAHAJI

DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE

FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AT

G. 77 SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING

11-12 JUNE 2004

SAO PAULO-BRAZIL

In the Name of God

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Permit me, first, to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to preside over this meeting.

I hope that under your leadership the deliberations on this meeting will lay the ground for an increased co-operation among the G-77 countries. I would like to express my appreciation to the Brazilian Government, and to Mr. Ricupero, the Secretary General of UNCTAD and his colleagues for their efforts to have perfectly organized this meeting.

Mr. President,

The opening years of the 21st Century coincide with a period when more than a fifth of the world's population lives on \$1 per day. In the developing regions, over 115 million children are without access to schooling and the number of world's illiterate stands at around 900 million. The volume of trade has shrunk in many countries and the investment flows to about 108 countries has contracted particularly in developing countries.

Imposing a security approach to the phenomenon of globalization, and trespassing other territories under such covers as peace-building, delivering democracy or combating terrorism have in many ways increased the cost of development and infringed on nations' rights to development in some parts of the world.

Mr. President,

Undoubtedly, building a more enhanced comprehensive co-operation among our Group can, to a large extent, address the enormous challenges facing the member countries, bring a balanced development to the Group, and strengthen our bargaining power in dealing with the developed partners. As was illustrated with the Doha Ministerial Meeting and the Cancun session, if developing countries join efforts in a harmonized and cohesive context, they will be able to advance their collective aims and interests and eliminate any potential threats.

Mr. President,

The GSTP scheme is an area of trade co-operation among member countries of the Group which has progressed sluggishly. There is a clear need for intensified efforts to broaden its scope and strengthen its effectiveness. We should go beyond mere tariff reductions and include new and more important issues such as joint investment, trade-facilitation and trade in services in order to promote a more

meaningful economic co-operation, with the ultimate aim of moving toward establishing free trade areas.

Mr. President,

In order to interact with the multilateral trading system, we have undertaken significant reforms, including privatization, deregulation, modification of trade and investment laws, and formulation of new trade policy. My country's application for accession to the WTO, which claims universality, has been rejected for the seventeenth time because of the abusive resort by a certain country to the "consensus requirement". Here, I would like to extend my appreciation to countries who have supported Iran's application, and hope that the members of the Group will continue to backstop this application on all future occasions.

Mr. President,

Strong support of UNCTAD by our Group can empower this organization in its mandates to assist developing countries. As developing countries can not fully achieve sustainable economic development relying only on their own domestic resources, therefore the global community should join efforts in a participatory context to assist developing countries to secure easy and quick access to financial resources and advanced technology and know-how needed for sustainable development. Developing countries should insist that the Doha Development agenda be implemented effectively. On the other

hand, our Group should work together to enhance its domestic capacities in order to lay the ground for a more effective presence in the competitive environment of the global markets.

Thank you,