



**Ministerial Conference  
Eleventh Session  
Buenos Aires, 10-13 December 2017**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

HELD AT THE HILTON CONVENTION CENTRE,  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA ON MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER, AT 10.15 A.M.

*Chairperson: Her Excellency Ms Susana Malcorra (Argentina)*

**1 OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE WTO (AGENDA ITEM 1)**

1.1. The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

1.2. She thanked the Vice-Chairs that would assist her over the course of those days: H.E. Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah (Nigeria); H.E. Hon. David Parker (New Zealand) and Mr. Edward Yau (Hong Kong, China).

1.3. She expressed her gratitude to the Minister-Facilitators that had accepted her invitation to assist her and the Director-General in facilitating discussions on a number of issues: H.E. Minister Amina Mohamed (Kenya) for Agriculture; H.E. Minister Kamina Johnson Smith (Jamaica) for Fisheries; H.E. Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide (Norway) for Development; H.E. Minister Alioune Sarr (Senegal) for e-commerce and H.E. Minister Eladio Loizaga Caballero (Paraguay) for Services/NAMA. She noted that the process of the facilitators would start later that morning, at 12 noon, with an Open-ended meeting on Agriculture facilitated by Minister Mohamed. The meetings would continue according to the schedule which had been communicated to all delegations in an Information Note circulated in document WT/MIN(17)/INF/27.

1.4. She also noted that later that day at 5 pm, an Open Ended meeting with her as the MC11 Chair was scheduled. It would be a Ministers' Dialogue which would provide an opportunity for Members to have a frank exchange of ideas. It would be interactive. There would be no prepared statements – just "Minister to Minister". To help frame their discussion for that meeting, she had prepared a note that would be distributed. She invited all of them to read it and to actively participate in the Ministers' Dialogue that afternoon.

1.5. She then delivered her address which was subsequently circulated in WT/MIN(17)/47.

1.6. The Director-General noted that the facilitators would be an essential part of the process in their work ahead. He thanked them for being willing to take on their roles. They were well-prepared and well-supported. He urged Members to engage in the meetings that would be convened later that day. He then made a few specific points in that regard. First, the facilitators were there to facilitate their work – not to drive it. Their role would be to support and facilitate Members' conversations and to report any developments to the full Membership – not more. Members would remain the driving force on the substance. The political calls and the decisions should therefore come from them. Second, openness would remain an essential element. The facilitators would aim to hold open meetings so that any and all Members who wished to participate would have a chance to do so. Third, he and the Chairperson would be convening Informal Heads of Delegation meetings in the evening to allow the facilitators to report back to them on all of their consultations. Those meetings would also be an opportunity for every Minister to engage on every issue and to take required decisions. Fourth, the expectation was that all those meetings – both the facilitators' meetings and the Informal HODs meetings – would not be the

moment for prepared statements. That was what the Plenary Sessions were for. The facilitators' meetings would be utilized to engage on the details of the particular issues and to see what progress could be possible. They should be very interactive working discussions that would lead to executive decisions. The HODs meetings in particular should be very focused and executive. They would be an opportunity to take decisions on many potential outputs put forward by the facilitators. If Members wanted a chance to make progress, all of them had the responsibility to be as efficient as possible. Adhering to those principles would expedite their work in the coming days. He and the Chairperson would continue to reach out to them as needed and would try to give as much notice as possible before calling any additional meeting. He asked Members to be on stand-by. His door remained open to anyone wishing to raise any issue with him.

1.7. The following statements were made:

Singapore	H.E. Mr. Lim Hng Kiang Minister for Trade and Industry	WT/MIN(17)/ST/1
Switzerland	H.E. Mr. Johann N. Schneider-Ammann Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs	WT/MIN(17)/ST/107
United States of America	Ambassador Robert Lighthizer United States Trade Representative	WT/MIN(17)/ST/128
Qatar	H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Jassim Al-Thani Minister of Economy and Commerce of the State of Qatar	WT/MIN(17)/ST/2
Mexico	H.E. Mr. Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal Minister of the Economy	WT/MIN(17)/ST/102
Hong Kong, China	Mr. Edward Yau Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development	WT/MIN(17)/ST/3
Chile	H.E. Mr. Hernando Muñoz Minister of Foreign Affairs	WT/MIN(17)/ST/103
Nigeria	H.E. Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment	WT/MIN(17)/ST/4
Indonesia	H.E. Mr. Enggartiasto Lukita Minister of Trade	WT/MIN(17)/ST/5
Kenya	H.E. Ms. Amina Chawahir Mohamed Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs	
Argentina	H.E. Mr. Jorge Marcelo Faurie Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship	WT/MIN(17)/ST/6
Turkey	Mr. Fatih Metin Deputy Minister	WT/MIN(17)/ST/7
China	H.E. Dr. Zhong Shan Minister of Commerce	WT/MIN(17)/ST/127
European Union	Ms. Cecilia Malmström Commissioner for Trade	WT/MIN(17)/ST/8
South Africa	Dr. Robert Haydn Davies Minister of Trade and Industry	

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Japan	H.E. Mr. Hiroshige Seko Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry	WT/MIN(17)/ST/110
India	H.E. Mr. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu Union Minister for Commerce and Industry	WT/MIN(17)/ST/9
Colombia	H.E. Ms. María Lorena Gutiérrez Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism	WT/MIN(17)/ST/10
Russian Federation	Mr. Maksim Oreshkin Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation	WT/MIN(17)/ST/11
Uruguay	H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa Minister of Foreign Trade	WT/MIN(17)/ST/12/Rev.1
Brazil	H.E. Mr. Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho Minister of Foreign Affairs	WT/MIN(17)/ST/13
Australia	Mr. Steven Ciobo, MP Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment	WT/MIN(17)/ST/14
Canada	H.E. Mr. François-Philippe Champagne Minister of International Trade	WT/MIN(17)/ST/15
Korea, Republic of	Mr. Kim Young Sam Deputy Minister for Trade and Investment	WT/MIN(17)/ST/16
Jamaica	Senator the Hon. Kamina Elizabeth Johnson Smith Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	WT/MIN(17)/ST/17
Philippines	H.E. Mr. Ramon M. Lopez Secretary / Minister, Department of Trade and Industry	WT/MIN(17)/ST/18
Paraguay	H.E. Mr. Eladio Loizaga Minister of Foreign Affairs	WT/MIN(17)/ST/105
Mali	H.E. Mr. Abdel Karim Konate Minister of Trade, Government Spokesman	WT/MIN(17)/ST/19
Bangladesh	H.E. Mr. Tofail Ahmed Minister for Commerce	WT/MIN(17)/ST/104
Norway	Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide Minister of Foreign Affairs	WT/MIN(17)/ST/20
Pakistan	H.E. Mr. Mohammad Pervaiz Malik Minister for Commerce and Textile Industry	WT/MIN(17)/ST/98
International Trade Centre (IGO Observer)	Ms. Arancha González Executive Director	WT/MIN(17)/ST/21

1.8. The meeting adjourned at 1.25 p.m.

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