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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR AHMAT ABDELKERIM AHMAT  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE**

CHAD

I have the singular honour of addressing this august gathering. I wish to congratulate the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and in particular, the Director-General, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, for their efforts in preparing and organizing this Ministerial Conference. I should also like to thank the United Arab Emirates for their warm welcome and hospitality.

My delegation feels a strong sense of responsibility and urgency to act to address the concerns of the most vulnerable Members. This is why the success of MC13 requires concrete progress on issues specific to our countries.

It is crucial to ensure the effective implementation of decisions taken and monitored by various WTO bodies. We have taken important decisions in the past (such as on duty-free and quota-free market access for LDCs, preferential rules of origin, the LDC services waiver, and decisions on cotton), but the implementation of these decisions continues to be reviewed by the relevant WTO bodies.

We hope that the support measures adopted in favour of LDCs will also be extended to graduated LDCs, in accordance with Ministerial Decision proposal. We are convinced of the importance of ensuring smooth and sustainable graduation.

LDCs, including Chad, represent the low-income-country category, which is most affected by successive crises. Given the lack of diversification in their economies, LDCs have seen a decline in their share of world exports.

We would urge all Members to give greater consideration to and integrate the priorities highlighted by LDCs. We must produce outcomes at MC13, in which, in our view, the most fragile Members should receive special and differential treatment (S&DT).

Chad calls for MC13 outcomes that will help to keep S&DT central to the WTO's work, so that the most vulnerable Members have the necessary policy space to further their structural transformation and step up their production capacity.

It is also important to tackle supply chain challenges, and to strive to address export restrictions, excessive customs procedures or access to inputs.

With regard to the fisheries subsidies negotiations, we are seeking a fair and equitable agreement that shows that the WTO can contribute to the conservation of fishery resources to ensure their sustainability.

Agriculture, particularly cotton, is a strategically important sector for us in terms of both job creation and food security. Chad therefore hopes that the MC13 outcomes will set us clearly on the path to effective reform of the agriculture sector. We trust that MC13 will provide clear guidelines on how to approach this reform through a relevant work programme.

It is crucial to chart a course that addresses specific objectives, namely trade-distorting domestic support, including domestic support for the cotton sector; finding a permanent solution to public stockholding programmes for food security purposes; special safeguards; and transparency-related issues.

Chad notes with satisfaction that all the evaluations have confirmed the relevance of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for LDCs and the promising tangible results obtained on the ground, in terms of both institutional capacity building and productive capacities. The EIF partnership is unique in that it is able to mobilize both the necessary financial resources and technical expertise to support LDCs' development efforts. Chad stresses that the EIF partnership principle should be upheld and strengthened with greater donor commitments. Continuing the work of the EIF will undoubtedly allow these results to be scaled up and consolidated, enabling LDCs to be better integrated into global trade.

Another point that we consider relevant is e-commerce. During the recent health crisis, it was found that the companies that fared the best were those that had already gone digital. This is thanks to the dynamism and resilience of e-commerce. Thus, while reaffirming our commitment to the 1998 Work Programme, Chad hopes that MC13 will deliver positive and equitable outcomes on e-commerce so that no one is left behind.

We also support a work programme aimed at reforming the WTO and the Appellate Body by ensuring the preservation of the fundamental principles and purpose of the WTO as a rules-based, consensus-driven, Member-led organization. Chad reaffirms its commitment to working with all WTO Members to make MC13 a success.

Chad remains committed to working towards strengthening the multilateral trading system through concrete and measurable outcomes that will, over time, have a significant impact on the living conditions of millions of people in Africa who are unable to enjoy the benefits and opportunities that international trade has to offer.

I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate our appeal to all partners to mobilize the resources needed to carry out our structuring projects, designed to promote the production, processing and marketing of African cotton and its by-products.

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