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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR EDGARD RAZAFINDRAVAHY
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TRADE****MADAGASCAR**

Allow me at the outset to express, on behalf of His Excellency Mr Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, and on behalf of the entire Government of Madagascar, my deep appreciation for the successful organization of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Mr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the warm welcome and hospitality that we have received since we arrived in this beautiful country.

My delegation endorses the statements by the Group of Least Developed Countries, the African Group, the ACP Group, the G33 and the G90.

Madagascar recently held free, democratic and transparent elections, and opted for continuity and stability. The recently adopted General State Policy rests on three pillars: human capital; industrialization and economic transformation; and governance and the rule of law. By the same token, the Government prioritizes poverty alleviation and enhancing purchasing power as pathways to development.

My Ministry's programme focuses on reinforcing the economy and promoting sustainable development, with the aim of processing consumer goods locally. We will be continuing the "One District One Factory" project in order to provide each district with a suitable processing unit. Furthermore, we recently adopted the Investment Law with a view to creating an investment-friendly environment.

My Ministry is also responsible for implementing the State's export promotion policy and for negotiating, monitoring and ensuring the implementation of international trade agreements. We pay particular attention to exporting our products to help redress our trade balance. Vanilla is a strategic product that is well known for its flavour, taste and high vanillin content. Natural vanilla from Madagascar generates income for all stakeholders at the various stages, from plantation to exportation. I would like to take this opportunity to make a case for vanilla from Madagascar. I urge importing Member countries to support this sector by buying natural vanilla at the price corresponding to its quality. We would like to establish, in collaboration with other vanilla-producing countries, naturally, an organization dedicated to vanilla that will help safeguard our shared product.

I firmly believe that these efforts will contribute to enhancing our position in the global market and help foster inclusive economic development, ensuring that our actions directly benefit our entire population.

Madagascar recognizes the crucial importance of the WTO as a forum for international trade governance. As a least developed nation facing certain challenges, we are firmly committed to strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

It is our duty to show the political will needed to reach decisions on the following WTO negotiating topics, which are of critical importance to our country: agriculture and food security; WTO reform; fisheries subsidies; the e-commerce work programme and moratorium; trade and development; the

Decision on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; sanitary and phytosanitary matters; trade and environment; and issues relating to least developed countries.

And here, I must emphasize the development and special and differential treatment component, which will remain at the centre of all these negotiating topics.

Regarding our relations with the WTO, Madagascar is determined to play an active and constructive role in the Organization. We benefit from Aid For Trade, technical assistance and capacity-building activities, and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). We would like to thank donors for these substantial contributions. In this connection, we seek to continue our partnership with a view to furthering our national trade interests.

Before concluding, my delegation welcomes the progress made by the Union of the Comoros and Timor-Leste in their accessions. I wish them every success in their tireless and long-standing efforts to join the WTO.

I will close this statement by reaffirming Madagascar's commitment to multilateral trade and the WTO. We firmly believe that this work benefits the populations of WTO Member countries.
