My delegation would like to congratulate and thank all those who to a greater or lesser degree have contributed to achieving the results of the negotiations so eagerly awaited. Even though work in certain areas still has to be completed, Madagascar is convinced that the time remaining until the next Ministerial Meeting in Marrakesh will be even better utilized to improve the concessions in areas which still require an additional effort on the part of participants.

As one delegation has already pointed out, even though it cannot be stated that today is a great satisfaction, it is nevertheless a great achievement and all participants, small or large, have made the necessary efforts to contribute towards the rebuilding together of a multilateral trade system in a much more equitable and just framework, a multilateral trade system which will undoubtedly be one of the cornerstones that will help to meet the challenges of the future.

Madagascar reaffirms today its political determination to be associated with this renewed and reinforced system and it expects that its special concerns will be understood both as regards internal development and the development of its external trade.