

Environment, Climate, and Sustainable Development at MC13: A Review of Ministerial Declarations, Decisions, and Statements

Compilation by Eugene James, Vinati Bhola, and Carolyn Deere Birkbeck

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This document compiles examples of how and where World Trade Organization (WTO) members addressed issues of environment, climate, and sustainable development in ministerial declarations, decisions, and statements by members at the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13). The review was compiled by searching relevant publicly available documents on the WTO website using the following terms: environment, climate, fisheries, sustainability, sustainable, and sustainable development. The review is intended to be extensive but also illustrative. It does not claim to be exhaustive in capturing all mentions of the array of environment issues or sustainable development considerations that may have arisen in the range of statements made and documents issued by ministers at MC13.

For environment-related ministerial declarations and statements that were focused entirely on environmental issues and considerations, the review provides direct links to the full text. For ministerial statements by regional groups and statements by ministers of individual members, the review provides excerpts. The excerpts compiled are direct quotes from the statements and in some instances include a number of paragraphs or sentences taken from different places in the source documents (always collated in the order in which they appear). All changes to quotations follow APA guidelines. All emphases, bullets, and numbering in the quoted content have been removed.

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1. Ministerial Declarations and Decisions

Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration [WT/MIN\(24\)/DEC](#)

“In addition, we recall that trade is to be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment, pursuing sustainable development of Members, and enhancing the means for doing so in a manner consistent with Members’ respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development.”

“In recalling the objectives in the Marrakesh Agreement and in recognising the role that the multilateral trading system can play in contributing towards the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in so far as they relate to the WTO mandate, we underscore the importance of trade and sustainable development in its three pillars – economic, social, and environmental.”

Ministerial Decision on Work Programme on Small Economies [WT/MIN\(24\)/33](#)

“We instruct the WTO Secretariat to provide relevant information and factual analysis for discussion among Members in the CTD’s Dedicated Session on Small Economies, including through cooperating with relevant international organizations, inter alia, in the areas identified in item k of paragraph 2 of the Work Programme on Small Economies and, in particular, on: (...) exploring with other relevant WTO bodies how to integrate trade related climate change adaptation and mitigation policies into the trade policies of small economies.”

Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Regulatory Cooperation to Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade [WT/MIN\(24\)/35](#)

“We reaffirm that the TBT Agreement remains relevant to modern global trade challenges and emerging policy concerns, including measures taken to address climate change, the digital economy and global health pandemics. The TBT Agreement provides a multilateral framework for regulatory cooperation that is essential to avoid and reduce unnecessary barriers to trade.”

“The Ministerial Conference (...) urges the Committee to promote its Member-driven work on immediate and emerging regulatory challenges, including but not limited to the areas of climate change, sustainable development, digital economy, and human health, and stresses the importance of promoting dialogue between Members, including among competent authorities and bodies.”

2. Environment-Related Ministerial Declarations and Statements

To see the full statements, please click on the hyperlinks (document codes). Smaller excerpts are not provided because these statements are focused specifically on environment issues.

Statement on Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions by the TESSD Co-Convenors (Canada and Costa Rica) [WT/MIN\(24\)/11](#)

Ministerial Statement on the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade by Australia, Barbados, China, Ecuador, Fiji, and Morocco [WT/MIN\(24\)/14](#)

Ministerial Statement on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform by Albania, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, Fiji, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Republic of, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Samoa, Switzerland, Tonga, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Vanuatu [WT/MIN\(24\)/19](#)

Ministerial Declaration on the Contribution of the Multilateral Trading System to Tackle Environmental Challenges by Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the African Group [WT/MIN\(24\)/28](#)

Communiqué of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate [WT/MIN\(24\)/26](#) and Coalition Menu of Voluntary Actions [WT/MIN\(24\)/27](#)

3. Ministerial Statements by Regional and Other Groupings

Ministerial Declaration by Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) [WT/MIN\(24\)/41](#)

“Recognizing that international trade offers extraordinary opportunities for achieving economic growth, job creation and sustainable development and concerned that LLDCs are not able to harness the full potential of international trade owing to a lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness from world markets, multiple border crossings and high trade costs and risks. These factors severely constrain the overall socioeconomic development of the LLDCs.”

“We recognize that foreign direct investment (FDI) can be a catalyst for structural transformation, raising the value added of the domestic economy and linking it more effectively into global value chains and we commit to continue promoting conducive policies to attract FDI that promotes trade as well as sustainable development of LLDCs.”

“We recognize the increasing role of environmental sustainability in international trade, and the impact of climate change on trade of the LLDCs and in this regard we call upon the LLDCs to pay more attention to address their trade-related environmental issues, provide comprehensive review on this matter, and share their best practices based on their experiences;

We acknowledge the critical importance of trade as a catalyst for sustainable development and poverty eradication in our nations as we embark on shaping the Third United Nations Programme of Action for the LLDCs in the coming months and we affirm our commitment to consider the strategic priorities of LLDCs in the realm of trade.”

Least Developed Country Group Ministerial Declaration: Call for Reinforcement of Aid for Trade Dedicated to LDCs [WT/MIN\(24\)/40](#)

“Recalling the collective failure of the international community to help the LDCs achieve Target 17.11 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to double the LDCs' share of global exports by 2020; (. ...)

We emphasize the urgency to address the LDCs' trade performance and increase shares of global exports in line with global goals and to ensure support for the LDCs in transition and graduation with momentum. We recognize the distinct needs of acceding LDCs that are also graduating and of those that remain far from graduation thresholds, with economic and environmental vulnerability increasing for all LDCs and a need for dedicated support until sustainable graduation.”

Ministerial Communiqué by the Arab Group [WT/MIN\(24\)/23](#)

“We understand that financing is a vital tool for development and emphasize the importance of mobilizing domestic and international resources to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in a timely manner. We recognize the essential role of the WTO and its technical assistance to member states especially developing countries and LDCs on debt issues, and call for further cooperation between the WTO and the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other stakeholders.”

“We welcome the adoption of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies at the 12th Ministerial Conference which represents a historical achievement as the first SDG target to be met through a multilateral agreement, and we remain firmly committed to its prompt entry into force. We acknowledge the continued commitment of Members to conclude the second wave of negotiations on fisheries subsidies to reach an agreement in the ongoing Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13). We look forward to have effective disciplines addressing the reasons behind overcapacity and

overfishing, and we emphasize that, fisheries negotiations should take into account the provisions of special and differential treatment (SDT) with a view to reaching a balanced and mutually acceptable outcome, that contributes to poverty eradication, livelihood and food security and serve the development needs of the WTO Members and in particular developing countries and LDCs.”

Ministerial Declaration by the Pacific Group [WT/MIN\(24\)/21](#)

“Recognizing the contribution of international trade as a vehicle to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the critical role of the WTO in delivering trade-related measures to contribute to solutions to global challenges severely impeding on the development aspirations of the Pacific region, including the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, pandemics and the slow economic recovery, and food and energy crises; (. ...) we the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Pacific Group met in Abu Dhabi on 24 February 2024 in the lead-up to the WTO Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13) and agree as follows:

On fisheries subsidies,

Register strong concerns and remind WTO Members that 84% harmful fishing subsidies go to capacity enhancing programs that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, which lead to the continuing decline in global fish stocks;

Underscore to the WTO Members that, whilst the Pacific is committed to maintaining the good health of the region's commercial stocks, grave risks remain of allowing subsidized fleets into the region; and call on distant water fishing nations to remove subsidies to overcapacity and overfishing as reflected in Pacific Islands Forum Leaders 2018 decision;

Demand that WTO Members deliver on their commitment in SDG14.6 relevant to overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF), and call on large subsidizers to refrain from introducing new such subsidies, and therefore support stronger disciplines that will result in the effective standstill and reduction of subsidies to OCOF by large subsidizers;

Support the exemption of subsidies for fishing in adjacent and nearby waters due to the migratory nature of the region's tuna stocks;

Also support the menu of options approach on SDT to address developing and least developing countries' interests and the retention of the de minimis exemption for small fishing nations not less than 0.8% of global marine capture and exemption for small scale and artisanal fishing and differential licensing; and

Agree that notification commitments should not be onerous for small WTO Members, and not be used as a condition for accessing SDT, and that any notification relating to access agreements must not disclose commercially sensitive information.”

“On Trade and Environment, support the revitalisation of the work in the Committee on Trade and Environment as well as intensify discussions to find tangible and mutually supportive trade policy solutions that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental sustainability.”

Ministerial Statement on the Reform of the Multilateral Rules on Agricultural Trade by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay [WT/MIN\(24\)/20](#)

“Underscore that, over the last two decades, the Latin American and Caribbean region, composed of developing countries and where the agricultural sector plays a vital role in sustainable development, has

accounted for 40% of all net food exports globally, making it the main supplier of safe, nutritious, high-quality and sustainably produced food for the rest of the world.

Express our concern about the restrictive and potentially discriminatory effect on trade of trade-related environmental measures adopted recently by some WTO Members. The adoption of a unilateral approach to address global issues should be avoided, as should the implementation of measures that create unjustified and unnecessary barriers to international trade, and that deepen the global food security and nutrition crisis. We agree multilateral cooperation is important in a context of multiple global environmental challenges.

Regret the lack of clearer progress, which should be commensurate with the importance of agriculture for developing and least-developed countries, before the opening of MC13. Reform pursuant to Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture is imperative for any effective and pragmatic WTO response to sustainable development challenges, including global food insecurity.”

“In order to arrive at modalities for the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference (MC14), the following elements should be considered:

Modalities for a substantial, progressive and gradual reduction in all forms of domestic support, including support that allows the concentration of trade-distorting subsidies. Efforts should be proportionate and take into account Members' responsibility for distortions in international markets.

Analysis of the Green Box and its criteria, in order to prevent production- and trade-distorting effects, bearing in mind the objectives of food security, rural livelihood security and environmental protection.”

Ministerial Declaration by the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)

[WT/MIN\(24\)/12](#)

“We encourage Members to expedite the ratification of the MC12 Fisheries Subsidies Agreement (FSA).

We call on Members to deliver an agreement on overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF) by MC13 that focuses on the most harmful subsidies, special and differential treatment for developing countries that are not responsible for OCOF such as exemption for LDCs including newly graduated LDCs (including for a period when graduated), SIDS and small players whose share of global fish catch is below an appropriate threshold and the exclusion of artisanal and small-scale fishing for all developing country Members up to their exclusive economic zone.

Any new notification obligations on developing country Members not responsible must be avoided and if any should also be subject to special and differential treatment and should be based on the principle of proportionate responsibility.

Members' right to determine national fisheries management systems must be preserved.

We welcome the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism and call for it to be easily accessible for all ACP Members to be able to invest in their management systems.”

“We urge Ministers at MC13 to revitalize the work of the Committee on Trade and Environment, and to emphasize the need to assist developing countries and LDCs meet the trade-related environmental challenges they face and which have an impact on their development. We further urge that environmental measures taken by Members do not constitute disguised restrictions to trade.”

Ministerial Declaration by LDC Group [WT/MIN\(24\)/2](#)

“We welcome the adoption of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies at the MC12 on 17 June 2022, as a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies.

We support the phase II multilateral negotiations on fisheries subsidies on overfishing and overcapacity (OCOF), in accordance with the Doha and Hong Kong Ministerial mandates, SDG 14.6 and the mandate for continued negotiations in the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies Ministerial Decision.

We draw the attention of Members to LDC Group submissions and contributions to the NGR Chair's texts. For MC13, we encourage the Chair's efforts to achieve an agreement that is balanced and proportionate to the responsibility of Members providing subsidies to overcapacity and overfishing.

LDCs are not the contributors to overcapacity and overfishing. Therefore, we urge Members to give priority consideration to LDC text proposals submitted in the negotiations, which call in particular to limit the exclusion relating to the management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the subsidizing Member. Appropriate special and differential treatment should include exemption of LDCs from the discipline and similar treatment for LDCs after graduation for a certain number of years, full exclusion of artisanal and small-scale fishing. Any appropriate capacity building assistance should also be provided.

We welcome the new funding mechanism established to receive voluntary contributions from Members to help developing countries and LDCs implement the Agreement. LDCs should be the main beneficiaries of this fund. LDCs should also be well represented in the Steering Committee.”

“We are aware and concerned about the degradation of the environment with its negative consequences on our planet and emphasize that LDCs are not responsible for the climate crisis. However, we are among the main victims of its harmful consequences.

While recognizing Members' right to regulate to protect the environment, we are concerned about unilateral trade-related measures adopted or in the process of adoption by Members. Some of those measures stand to impact negatively on our market access and our overall sustainable development. Therefore, we urge Members to refrain from adopting trade distorting measures, which are inconsistent with WTO rules. It is a priority that measures taken by Members to mitigate climate change do not serve as disguised barriers to trade, especially the trade of LDCs.

We recall paragraph 14 of the MC12 Outcome Document and urge Members to follow the Paris Agreement and other relevant international instruments to provide adequate financial support and technology transfer to LDCs to adapt to climate change.”

4. Statements by Ministers of Individual WTO Members

Ministerial Statement by Argentina [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/82](#)

“At the same time, it is imperative to finalize disciplines to prohibit fisheries subsidies; this will contribute to a fishing trade with fewer distortions and, above all, to preserving marine resources as a source of wealth.”

“To conclude, I would like to reiterate Argentina's commitment to helping ensure concrete results at this Conference that will reinforce the multilateral trading system, enhance the export capacity of enterprises, and promote long-term and sustainable development. To that end, we need more trade and investment, more multilateralism, more cooperation and more WTO. Now is the time for us to work together, based on shared rules and values, to achieve lasting results that promote the well-being and freedom of our citizens.”

Ministerial Statement by Angola [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/68](#)

“We cannot overcome the climate crisis and get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions without multilateral trade. We need international trade to get low-carbon technology and the respective services to everywhere they are required.”

“We know that navigating trade policies through the current turbulent period is challenging. But keeping world trade open and looking for new opportunities for closer cooperation will be essential to build on existing gains and to help deliver solutions to climate change and other pressuring global and future challenges.”

“To open, we must start with our own common house by firmly delivering a serious ministerial declaration committed to an institutional, functional, and deliberative reform of the WTO, reinforcing its leading role to implement through fair rules and agreements multilateral world trade favorable to all their Members and new sustainable development.”

“It is the case of the second phase of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies targeting illegal subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing. Notwithstanding, we recall again that LDCs and other developing countries are not the contributors to overfishing and overcapacity and, therefore, should be exempted from some of the agreement disciplines on certain subsidies with relevant social impact, thus using the congruent special and differential treatment clauses, including the complete exclusion of artisanal and small-scale fishing that are the main traditional livelihood of some of our coastal communities in Angola and certainly in most LDCs with maritime borders.”

“Finally, the government of Angola solemnly reaffirms the importance of the multilateral trading system under the WTO agreements and rules to successfully address the global challenges, from the environment to poverty eradication, fully materializing the UN 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a novel re-globalization in which multilateral trade will definitively become fair, inclusive, and engaged to the causes of developing and least-developed countries.”

Ministerial Statement by Australia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/88](#)

“The thirteenth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference provides a valuable opportunity to deliver necessary reforms, which will improve the World Trade Organization's ability to respond to the challenges and serve the interests of all Members.

To do so, we Ministers should launch new discussions on issues such as industrial policy, environment, and social and economic inclusion.”

“Australia, particularly as the Chair of the Cairns Group, also wants to find a way to address the inadequacy of rules on agricultural trade – to make this sector stronger and fairer. It will not be possible to meet global food security, climate, and biodiversity goals, without making progress on agricultural trade reform, including production and trade-distorting subsidies.

We have an opportunity to build on the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement which was a key outcome of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference. We want to bring it into force and strengthen it, through agreeing to new rules that will limit subsidies contributing to the overfishing of seriously depleted resources.

We are proud to support the Fisheries Funding Mechanism, which will support developing countries implement and benefit from the Agreement.”

Ministerial Statement by Austria [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/74](#)

“A solid legal framework allowing for a stable Multilateral Trading System, covering all aspects of modern trade and innovative trading modes, is essential. Certainly, global trade needs to benefit all, be sustainable and responsible of world climate and the environment. Among these aspects, commercial, social and environmental interconnections exist and are to be taken into consideration when developing such a solid legal framework further.

Therefore, the WTO must deliver answers to pertinent questions and respond to legal gaps in the rulebook without delay. Five points seem to be predominant:

First, I welcome the accession of Timor-Leste and the Comoros to the WTO. This is an important step for all Members, broadly enriching the diversity of the WTO.

Second, concluding the negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies is a logical step to complete the MC12 Ministerial Decision on Phase 1 of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and to contribute to the preservation and health of our oceans.”

“Climate change is a global challenge and requires global action. Trade can contribute to fighting climate change and the WTO is to play a meaningful and active role. The ongoing Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) as well as the dialogue on plastic pollution and environmentally sustainable plastic trade are decisive steps towards deeper analysis and concrete action. The same applies to the proposed statement on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform and the Recommendation for future work on trade and global environment challenges in the Committee on Trade and Environment.”

Ministerial Statement by Kingdom of Bahrain [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/107](#)

“In line with our commitment, the Kingdom of Bahrain is prepared to make meaningful contributions to ensure that MC13 yields tangible results. In this regard, we look forward to actively engaging in discussions on key issues including food security measures, fisheries subsidies disciplines, the development dimension, and other areas of vital interest.”

“Inclusive trade through the World Trade Organization has long been recognized as a catalyst for the economic growth and poverty reduction that contributes to the promotion of sustainable development both by the UN 2030 Agenda and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals.”

Ministerial Statement by Bangladesh [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/66](#)

“On the fisheries subsidies regarding over capacity and overfishing (OCOF) negotiation, Bangladesh strongly urges for targeting the largest subsidisers that has historical responsibility and contributed significantly to OCOF as well as distance water fishing. This is also important to bring Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) and polluters pay principle for the marine fisheries damage, caused by those subsidizing Members.

LDCs, graduated LDCs for at least some years after graduation, and small scale and artisanal fisheries must be outside the discipline as they were never part of the problem.”

“While Members' trade-related measures to protect environment are well understood, at the same time, it is expected that Members' mitigative measures do not serve as disguised barriers to trade, especially the trade of LDCs. All countries including LDCs do their level best to create employment opportunities through trade, with focus on vulnerable segments of the society in particular women and climate vulnerable.”

Ministerial Statement by Barbados [WT/MIN\(24a\)/ST/85](#)

“For small island developing states and small vulnerable economies like Barbados, the WTO is a valuable forum for consensus-based decision-making. This forum is not just intended to craft and adjudicate global trade rules, but to address contemporary issues such as inclusive trade and sustainability concerns, the nexus between policy space and development, and the priorities of those impacted by the outcomes of our deliberations.”

“I am pleased to add that just a few days ago, Barbados deposited its Instrument of Acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and we continue to actively engage in the second wave of negotiations.”

Ministerial Statement by Belgium [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/21](#)

“We are convinced that the WTO should deliver on its sustainability goals. We must complete the work on fisheries subsidies. An agreement must include a robust sustainability standard that truly contributes to preserving fish stocks, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of millions of people across the globe. I call upon all of us to ratify quickly the Fish 1 deal and to agree on Fish 2 in the coming days.”

“The WTO also needs to deal with the impact of subsidies in the industrial sector and environmental policies on international trade. Let us create the right platform within the WTO to discuss these topics.”

Ministerial Statement by Belize [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/54](#)

“As these turbulent waters are navigated, the role of the WTO in addressing sustainable development, promoting equitable commerce, and fostering resilience becomes ever more critical.

Against this backdrop, MC13 assumes paramount significance. It is not merely a routine gathering. It is a platform where we must chart a course for a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable global economy.”

“Having ratified the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, Belize calls on other WTO Members to advance their domestic consultations to allow for its entry into force. This Agreement will contribute significantly to the safeguarding of our marine ecosystems. Further to this, Belize stands ready to support the advancement of texts in the second wave of negotiations that are envisioned to: provide the policy space for small fishing states like Belize with the flexibility to invest in the marine sector and effectively discipline harmful subsidies to large-scale industrial fishing that has placed immense pressure on global fish stocks.”

“Lastly, the WTO must make the integration of environmental and climate change considerations central to its deliberative function in all WTO bodies over the next Ministerial Conference cycle. Belize, like most SIDS, are among the most vulnerable to climate change. Rising sea levels threaten our very existence, while extreme weather events such as cyclones and drought cripple our economies and infrastructure. Mainstreaming environment and climate change within the WTO is not a mere policy exercise, it is a lifeline for SIDS. By championing their voices, fostering resilience, and promoting sustainable trade, we pave the way for a more equitable and climate-resilient global economy.”

Ministerial Statement by Brazil [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/105](#)

“Brazil, as a developing country itself, seeks a strengthened and modernized WTO that fully integrates into its agenda the perspective of sustainable development in its three dimensions: environmental, economic and social.”

“Brazil is also strongly committed to expedite the ratification of the agreement on fisheries and to the success of the ongoing negotiations on the matter. Both are crucial for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goal 14.6.

In Abu Dhabi, we must effectively discipline large-scale, industrial, long- distance fishing subsidies that disproportionately contribute to overfishing and overcapacity. At the same time, we need to provide for Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries, in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.”

Ministerial Statement by Brunei Darussalam [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/128](#)

“We also recognize the profound impact of granting or maintaining harmful subsidies leading to overcapacity and overfishing. Hence it is our hope that the negotiations on the second phase of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement can be concluded soon, in order to safeguard our oceans whilst ensuring a thriving and sustainable maritime economy.”

“In conclusion, Brunei Darussalam remains steadfast in its commitment to collaborative efforts within the WTO and the international community. Let us use this opportunity to secure outcomes that contribute to the welfare of our people and our efforts towards sustainability.”

Ministerial Statement by Bulgaria [WT/MIN\(24r\)/ST/50](#)

“Bulgaria is committed to achieving an agreement on subsidies for overcapacity and overfishing and to the conclusion of the second phase of the negotiations on Fishery Subsidies Agreement. This will fulfil our mandate from MC12 and from the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It will address today's global sustainability concerns and will show that the WTO Membership can design multilateral trade rules.

With regard to further reform in the WTO, Bulgaria shares the need to launch new work on contemporary trade issues. We expect that MC13 should provide guidance to start structured discussions on industrial subsidies and for deeper engagement on trade and environment, as well as on trade and inclusiveness.”

Ministerial Statement by Burkina Faso [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/48](#)

“We must therefore redouble our efforts and, with a strong political will and a spirit of shared responsibility, do our utmost to overcome the current difficulties, taking into consideration the priorities linked to the choices made by our countries to move towards self-sustaining and sustainable development models.”

Ministerial Statement by Cabo Verde [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/109](#)

“Cabo Verde recognizes the importance of trade and environmental sustainability, and remains committed to promoting a broader and conscious understanding of trade policies and practices. To this end, Cabo Verde is open to working with its WTO partners. We are pinning our hopes on a WTO that is responsive to global challenges that warrant the engagement of all.”

“As the ocean makes up 99% of Cabo Verde's territory, marine resources play a crucial role in the country's socio-economic life. We recognize the strategic importance of the ocean economy for our country's economic diversification and sustainable development. Cabo Verde remains committed to prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, thus seeking to guarantee the preservation of our marine resources.”

Ministerial Statement by Cambodia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/49](#)

“The adoption of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement at MC12 had been a landmark achievement. It took more than 20 years for the WTO to fulfil its mandate as assigned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But our tasks do not stop there. WTO Members have collective responsibility to safeguard the life under the seas and the sustainability of our oceans. We need to be steadfast in our resolve to complete the comprehensive disciplines of fisheries subsidies as soon as possible without waiting for the final deadline. The longer we wait, the longer time we leave for overfishing and overcapacity activities to go on unchecked, thus further deteriorating much needed marine resources which many of us rely upon for our food source and livelihood. In this regard, WTO Members should carefully pay attention to the LDC Group’s position on these disciplines as the LDCs are not the main contributor to overfishing and overcapacity and therefore should be provided with appropriate and effective special and differential treatments to allow the LDCs to access these essential resources for their development.”

“It is critical that WTO Members continue to place greater importance on these LDC-specific issues to promote and upscale LDCs’ trade, allowing them to fully leverage Multilateral Trading System and to utilize trade to drive and raise their economic profiles for inclusive and sustainable development of their countries.”

“In addition, our expectations would extend also to addressing key agricultural issues, resolving TRIPS-related issues, integrating environmental considerations, fostering new development initiatives, and accelerating digital trade for a more inclusive future. These steps are crucial in ensuring a fair, balanced, and inclusive trade system that not only promotes economic growth but also safeguards the environment, public health, and SMEs.”

Ministerial Statement by Canada [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/20](#)

“Canada is firmly committed to working with all Members to deliver long-overdue agriculture reform that supports our shared food security and sustainability objectives, reduces market distortions and promotes a level trade environment.”

Ministerial Statement by Chad [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/127](#)

“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.”

Ministerial Statement by Chile [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/13](#)

“In this connection, we welcome the initiative to hold a discussion at ministerial level on climate change, inclusion and productivity on the first day of the Conference. We recognize the interconnected nature of these issues and the need to address them together.”

“Similarly, we call for the conclusion of the second wave of negotiations on fisheries subsidies, the aim being to achieve high environmental standards that will ensure the conservation of marine resources and the long-term viability of this productive sector, while safeguarding artisanal fishing in our countries.”

“All these initiatives and objectives reflect our continued commitment to a multilateral trading system that is effective, inclusive and sustainable. At this Thirteenth Ministerial Conference, WTO Members must work together to deliver tangible progress to improve the living conditions of our citizens.”

Ministerial Statement by China [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/1](#)

“The WTO needs to advance a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. (. ...) To that end (. ...) it needs to advance negotiations on topics such as agriculture, food security and fisheries subsidies, to protect the livelihood of small-scale farmers and artisanal fishermen.

The WTO needs to inject fresh impetus into global economic growth. (. ...)

As green and low-carbon economy leads a new round of technological revolution and industrial upgrading, green industries, particularly green manufacturing, will become new growth engines. (. ...) [The WTO] needs to liberalize and facilitate trade in environmental goods and services, promote circular economy and lower barriers to trade.”

Ministerial Statement by Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu
[WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/122](#)

“As we have done for the last twelve conferences, we gather here today to take on these challenges by facilitating trade in goods and services, raising living standards, ensuring full employment, and achieving sustainable development through the strengthening of the world trade order. Building on MC12’s “Geneva Package,” let us be guided by the spirit of the Marrakesh Agreement on which the WTO was founded, and work together to lead the world economy towards a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future.”

“On trade and the environment, we believe in the importance of environmental protection, provided that such protection is not used as an excuse to engage in unfair trade practices and that all measures are in line with existing WTO rules. As such, we look forward to discussing recent environmental protection measures that Members have adopted unilaterally, and hope to have an opportunity to weigh in on the EU’s carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) in particular.

With respect to the Agreement on Fishery Subsidies, we attach great importance to the sustainable development of fishery resources and are committed to adopting policies geared toward controlling the import of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fish and fishery products. At the same time, however, we think that the volume of marine capture production should be accounted for in the Agreement. This will ensure that the conservation of fishery resources is effective and fair, while allowing Members with larger catch volumes to be subject to the rules as well.”

“On intellectual property, we maintain that innovative ideas should be protected and respected, and welcome the promotion of global economic development and environmental protection through the transfer of technology, provided that such transfers are based on mutually agreed-upon commercial terms and do not involve the theft of intellectual property.”

“Given the sensitivity of agricultural issues, negotiations should also take into account individual Members’ approaches to environmental protection and other non-trade concerns, and be conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner so as to achieve a balanced outcome.”

Ministerial Statement by Colombia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/42](#)

“Colombia considers that the WTO has not evolved substantively in relation to the main problem facing humanity, such as the climate crisis and the necessary decision to make the SDGs and COP agreements binding with the rules of international trade in matters of investment, intellectual property and circulation of goods and services.

This Ministerial must expand the mandate of the Trade and Environment Committee with precise short-term objectives, goals and dates that define the roadmap, as well as the immediate elimination of unilateral and protectionist measures that threaten sustainability.”

“When was the essential objective of promoting the free circulation of factors towards the development of internationalization with a human face, sustainable and balanced, between developed and developing economies lost?”

“The new protectionism manifests itself in unilateral measures, disguised in decisions that appeal to national security or environmental protection and that become reality in trade restrictions and the unjust deepening of social or environmental dumping.”

“We are deeply concerned that in this important forum we turn our backs on the solution of aspects such as those we have exposed, which threaten life, fundamental human rights and the sustainability of a possible world for new generations.”

Ministerial Statement by Costa Rica [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/19](#)

“Costa Rica hopes that, at this Ministerial Conference, we will obtain concrete multilateral negotiation outcomes, such as an agreement to move forward with agricultural reform, the renewal of the e-commerce moratorium and the finalization of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.”

“In the face of multiple challenges at the global level, we must look to the future with fresh eyes, be creative and engage in dialogue to ensure that trade is a source of opportunities for more sectors, such as women and MSMEs, and that it also addresses global environmental challenges. That is why we aim to strengthen the mutual supportiveness of trade and environmental policies at the WTO, with initiatives such as the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions, led by Costa Rica and Canada.”

Ministerial Statement by Côte d'Ivoire [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/115](#)

“Furthermore, while remaining fully committed to sustainable development and environmental issues, Côte d'Ivoire would like to point out that the WTO's reflection on sustainability should focus primarily on the social and economic dimensions of this concept, and take due account of the principles underpinning multilateral environmental action, high adjustment costs and reductions in export competitiveness, particularly for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).”

“With regard to fisheries, and in accordance with its vision and commitment to the multilateral agenda for sustainable fisheries, Côte d'Ivoire deposited its instrument of acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies on 23 October 2023, and is now a Member of the Steering Committee of the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism, and we welcome the work to operationalize it.”

Submitted by Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the WAEMU [West African Economic and Monetary Union]

“Convinced that only a development-oriented multilateral trading system can contribute effectively to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals, and the prompt achievement of the objectives set out in the preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO.”

“Regarding fisheries subsidies

We welcome the adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in June 2022. We call on Member States to accelerate internal processes for the deposit of instruments of acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. We reaffirm the commitment of the WAEMU member States to continue their efforts to ratify the Agreement as soon as possible in order to consolidate regional gains.

We welcome the effective launch of the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism to assist developing and least-developed country Members in the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and express our gratitude to the Fisheries Funding Mechanism Trust Fund donors.

We reaffirm our support for the second wave of negotiations on disciplines for fisheries subsidies, and call for outcomes that represent a meaningful WTO contribution to the international effort to conserve marine resources, and that take full account of special and differential treatment.”

“Regarding trade, environmental sustainability and inclusion

We are of the view that the WTO and the multilateral trading system can help to address the global environmental challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

We note with concern the proliferation of unilateral measures taken for so-called environmental purposes, the effects of which act as non-tariff barriers to market access for the products and goods concerned.”

Ministerial Statement by Cyprus [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/12](#)

“The WTO’s 13th Ministerial Conference serves as a beacon of hope for collaborative solutions to trade agreement negotiations and key issues such as digital trade and environmental sustainability.”

“As we commence negotiations, let us be guided by the fundamental values of the WTO fairness, inclusivity, and the pursuit of collective prosperity. These principles should underpin our discussions as we strive for balanced solutions and fostering sustainable development for all.”

“Enhancing deliberation on critical issues for the trading system, such as trade and industrial policy and the impact of global environmental challenges, is a key component of WTO reform.

Reaching a WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in 2022 confirmed the ability of the Organization to negotiate and conclude multilateral agreements. Cyprus, together with the rest of the EU member States, recognising the contribution of the agreement to environmental sustainability, was among the first to endorse it. We are now given the opportunity to complement the agreement with additional rules that will help us fully meet the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 (for Sustainable Fishing).”

Ministerial Statement by the Czech Republic [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/35](#)

“Complexity of many of the current global challenges impacting trade is unprecedented. There is an urgent need to enhance deliberations – a “soft” function of the WTO. This would enable us to explore the nexus of trade and industrial policies or that of trade and environment and build on these discussions in the future. A more realistic, broader, and open mindset may also benefit some long-standing areas of negotiations, including agriculture.”

“we need concrete “hard” outcomes in the field of sustainability, food security, digital transition. Completion of fisheries subsidies negotiations is within reach. We simply cannot afford to miss this chance.”

Ministerial Statement by the Democratic Republic of Congo [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/124](#)

“With regard to fisheries subsidies, the Democratic Republic of the Congo supports the ongoing negotiations on overfishing and overcapacity. It also calls for the establishment of a cooperation mechanism to prevent illegal fishing, and the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels in territorial waters between neighbouring countries.”

“Trade is an undeniable pillar of growth and sustainable development.

As trade is an undeniable pillar of growth and sustainable development, I believe that the Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference will provide an opportunity for LDCs, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to explore with other Members how to make special and differential treatment effective in order to achieve the expected outcomes.”

Ministerial Statement by Denmark [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/112](#)

“The global climate and environmental crisis is already happening. Trade is vital for the green transition. We have set common goals on sustainability that we must deliver on.”

Ministerial Statement by Dominican Republic [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/40](#)

“For the Dominican Republic, WTO reform must address key issues, such as predictable policies on MSMEs, industry, environmental sustainability and gender, as well as other matters that contribute to development.”

Ministerial Statement by Ecuador [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/31](#)

“We are witnessing the adoption of regulations based on environmental criteria that pursue the legitimate objective of curbing climate change, and yet we must also consider the effect they might have on economies such as ours, which are dependent on the export of certain agricultural products. We must discuss how best to achieve these aims, while always ensuring the effective and genuine participation of developing countries such as Ecuador that rely on agricultural exports and seek to achieve sustained and sustainable development that provides opportunities for their peoples.”

“Ecuador’s vision is to have sustainability policies that protect the environment while still supporting trade. The main policies in this respect include the climate change action plan, the organic law on inclusive circular economy, and the organic law for the rationalization, reuse and reduction of single-use plastics. In addition, Ecuador’s expansion of the marine reserve around the Galapagos Islands and the entry into force of the law restricting illegal and unregulated fishing are equally important.

Regarding the latter, and in line with SDG target 14.6 and the WTO’s negotiating mandates, Ecuador will support a fisheries agreement that preserves flexibilities in the form of the inclusion of provisions for special and differential treatment and the effective protection of small-scale fishing in its broadest sense.”

Trade is a tool that promotes sustainable development and can secure the future of our countries and generations to come. The shift towards a resilient and sustainable economy does not happen uniformly across the world. It requires the promotion of gradual processes, taking into account the different realities in each country, and the interconnections and interdependence of nations in the global context.”

Ministerial Statement by Egypt [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/94](#)

“It is in our hands to prioritize and deliver in MC13: (. ...)

A fair and balanced outcome on fisheries subsidies that ensures that the biggest subsidizers who have for long exploited the seas and oceans take greater responsibility, while affording appropriate and effective Special and differential treatment to developing countries necessary to secure them with sufficient policy space to sustainably develop their fisheries sector, and safeguard their food security and livelihood of artisanal and small scale fishing. (. ...)

Enhanced Technology transfer to developing countries and LDCs through existing WTO rules and mandates and examining needed flexibilities in existing agreements is a requisite to support their transformation effort including digitalization, addressing major challenges of climate change and fighting pandemics.”

Ministerial Statement by Estonia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/100](#)

“In these challenging times, it is critical to remember that trade can be used as an engine of prosperity, sustainable development, and poverty reduction.

“We also need to acknowledge the climate crisis that threatens our entire planet. Estonia is a strong supporter of the green transition to more climate neutral and environmentally friendly economies. Trade has an important part to play in addressing climate change. It is therefore important to pursue a strong environmental agenda also in the WTO. In this context, we underline the need to deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.6. Estonia supports an effective agreement on fisheries subsidies by MC13.”

Ministerial Statement by Eswatini [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/118](#)

“We commend the WTO Director-General, Dr Ngozi in advancing the multilateral agenda, particularly the fisheries subsidies negotiations.”

“Eswatini stresses the importance of protecting and building on progress achieved so far in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations, especially the preservation of flexibilities so far stabilized across the spectrum in Agriculture, Fisheries Subsidies, NAMA and in Services for these special groups.”

“The reform of the WTO is critical to ensure that the rules based multilateral trading system remains relevant and also that pressing global challenges such as food security, pandemic responses and climate change mostly affecting developing countries are addressed. We reaffirm the need for a WTO reform process that would include proposals from all Members in a fair, transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory manner. (. ...) The escalation of discriminatory measures and non-tariff barriers on exports from developing countries, particularly Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, and onerous private standards imposed by developed countries in the disguise of climate change cannot be ignored and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.”

In closing, my delegation recognizes and applauds the achievements of this Organization over the past three decades, especially the adoption of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement which my Government is in the active process of ratifying.”

Ministerial Statement by European Union [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/6](#)

“We need to make progress along three tracks in particular: (. ...) trade rules need to catch up with the realities of today's world. One prime example is the need for updated rules on industrial subsidies, including in the context of climate and sustainability. We also need to conclude negotiations on fisheries subsidies. And we need a balanced outcome on agriculture, reflecting also on food security aspects. There are of course differences between the various constituencies. And we need to bridge them.”

Ministerial Statement by Fiji [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/114](#)

“Allow me to underscore the critical importance of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to small island developing states like Fiji. For us, the WTO serves as a vital platform to ensure fair and equitable trade rules are developed to foster sustainable development.”

“During this time, Fiji also ratified the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, underscoring our dedication to sustainable fisheries management and the protection of our marine resources. This important commitment demonstrates the importance Fiji places in addressing challenges, such as overcapacity and overfishing, which threaten the livelihoods and food security of our coastal communities.

Fiji recognizes the importance of multilateralism in addressing today's complex economic challenges. Hence, at MC13, we are committed to advancing Fiji's, and collectively the Pacific's, interests and priorities within the global trade arena. We will advocate for fair and inclusive trade policies that promote sustainable development and benefit all WTO members, particularly small island developing states like Fiji

Our primary focus at MC13 will be on fisheries subsidies and the urgent need to address overcapacity and overfishing, which threaten the sustainability of our marine resources and the livelihoods of our people.

We must acknowledge and condemn the decades of subsidization from industrial fishing nations and fleets, which have perpetuated overfishing and depleted our precious marine resources. It is imperative that any agreement reached at the WTO reflects the responsibility of those who have profited at the expense of fish stocks and developing country resource holders.

Therefore, Fiji will ask from its partners stronger disciplines on subsidies contributing to overfishing and overcapacity in the negotiations that has caused the global depletion of fish stocks. For us this is more than a matter of national interest - it is a matter of national survival.”

“We approach MC13 with a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, seeking constructive outcomes that contribute to the collective goal of fostering a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global trading system.”

Ministerial Statement by Germany [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/8](#)

“But the WTO also needs to confront today’s ecological challenges: Global trade rules have to contribute to sustainability and well-being.

This is why it is so important to conclude now the negotiations on the reduction of harmful fishery subsidies.”

Ministerial Statement by Greece [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/14](#)

“Additionally, the Organization must re-establish itself as a forum for meaningful policy deliberations that address critical topics in global trade policy today. These topics include industrial policies, global environmental challenges, and inclusiveness.

A significant milestone for the Organization was the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in 2022 as it was the first agreement to specifically address environmental sustainability. Greece, along with other EU member States, was among the early endorsers of this agreement. In the coming days, we should build upon this successful outcome and supplement it with additional rules to fully achieve the objectives of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.6.”

“As we enter into negotiations, it is crucial that we adhere to the core principles of the WTO: fairness, inclusivity, and the pursuit of shared prosperity. These principles should guide our discussions as we strive to find solutions that balance the interests of various stakeholders and promote sustainable development for all.”

Ministerial Statement by Guatemala [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/83](#)

“We therefore encourage the modernization of the WTO, which entails updating issues that are a priority for developing countries, including access to medical technologies and supply chain resilience. These topics must be put on the Organization’s agenda, without neglecting the WTO’s important work on safeguarding free trade from discrimination and protectionism. We recognize that trade is an essential tool for development and, in the current climate, for the transition to an environmentally friendly, sustainable and financially viable economy. We thus see important synergies between the role of the WTO and our development objectives.”

“Furthermore, we express our commitment to the sustainability of marine resources through the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which we regard as a legacy from the WTO to future generations. We are working hard to ratify this Agreement in accordance with internal legal procedures.”

Ministerial Statement by Guyana and CARICOM [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/26](#)

“The Member States of the Caribbean Community remain fully supportive of a Small Economies Work Programme that affords small vulnerable economies flexibilities in the WTO and addresses the trade-related economic and environmental concerns raised by our countries as we strive to integrate into the global economy.

For us as small, vulnerable economies, just as it was important for us to address subsidies to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, it is also important that we conclude an Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which disciplines harmful subsidies provided by countries with large distant-water fleets that lead to the depletion of global fish stocks. Like the effects of climate change on the global environment, we have not contributed to the problem of overcapacity and overfishing, and so should not be required to eliminate the support required to develop meaningfully our already small sectors and our blue economies. Concluding an appropriate fisheries subsidies agreement at MC13 would show that the WTO supports both the sustainability of our fish stocks and the food and livelihood security of our people.”

Ministerial Statement by Haiti [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/56](#)

“In this regard, Members' attention is drawn to the need to take into account the priorities of developing countries, particularly LDCs, which are, for the most part, small players in the fisheries sector with a share of the global fish catch below an appropriate de minimis threshold. In addition, Haiti continues to call for artisanal and small-scale fishing to be completely excluded from any disciplines on fisheries subsidies.

Regarding special and differential treatment, Haiti supports the G90 agreement-specific proposals, emphasizing the need for reforms that promote the economic transformation and sustainable development of developing countries.”

Ministerial Statement by Iceland [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/22](#)

“And talking about sustainability - Now we have the chance to fully realize Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 by agreeing on the outstanding disciplines on subsidies to overcapacity and overfishing.

With our Permanent Representative Chairing the negotiations in Geneva - we feel confident that the current text provides a carefully calibrated outcome. We urge our colleagues to conclude on this basis. A comprehensive Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies will benefit the sustainability of our oceans, our fishing communities, and the WTO.

The global trading system must be more responsive to the environmental- and climate challenges of our times. Trade policy can play an important role in advancing environmental goals – while remaining consistent with existing WTO rules. We support environmental initiatives at the WTO aiming to facilitate trade in environmental goods and services, fostering a circular economy and disciplining harmful subsidies to fossil fuels.”

Ministerial Statement by India [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/123](#)

“Excellencies, let me emphasize that for India, development stands for fight against hunger and undernourishment, upliftment of the poor and distressed masses, ensuring reasonable returns for low income and resource poor farmers and fishers.

I re-emphasize that the development agenda would remain incomplete without a permanent solution on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes which is directly related to achieving Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030.”

“In India we largely undertake sustenance fishing which addresses hunger, poverty, food and nutrition insecurity of millions of traditional fishers. Sustainably harnessing fishing resources is a problem of a

magnitude that requires a global consensus, taking into account the interests of disciplined nations like India.

Fisheries should be shared equitably, considering the past and being mindful of future. I would like to reiterate my statement during MC12 "let us not repeat the mistakes of the Uruguay Round in Agriculture in Fisheries agreement."

"India reaffirms our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for sustainable living through LiFE i.e. Lifestyle for Environment, that seeks to invigorate India's rich tradition of, 'reduce, reuse and recycle' against the prevalent 'use and dispose' economy governed by mindless and destructive consumption.

India firmly believes that any measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Further, WTO should not negotiate rules on non-trade related subjects like climate change, gender, labor etc. rather they should be addressed in respective intergovernmental organizations."

Ministerial Statement by Ireland [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/75](#)

"For the WTO to maintain its relevance, it must demonstrate its ability to address emerging challenges, such as digital trade, sustainability and climate. By adapting its rules to the realities of the 21st century, the WTO can become a more responsive and effective institution. Our commitment to sustainable trade can be best illustrated by reaching an outcome on the second phase of the fisheries agreement."

Ministerial Statement by Israel [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/59](#)

"Another challenge we face is climate change, and Israel is a facilitator of one of the four working groups on the Trade and Environment Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) initiative. Trade policy and environmental goals are mutually supportive and we therefore see value in the discussions held in TESSD, as well as in the Committee on Trade and Environment. The ongoing fisheries subsidies negotiations are also important in this regard. Although crucial issues require further work, Members have made much progress in the last few weeks and we are closer than ever to reaching an outcome."

Ministerial Statement by Italy [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/10](#)

"The 13th session of the WTO Ministerial Conference takes place in a particularly critical global context, characterized by geopolitical and economic tensions, obstacles to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, growing inequalities among and within countries, and increasingly devastating consequences of climate change."

In this context, the Abu Dhabi Conference offers a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the centrality of the multilateral trading system as a key tool to respond to current international challenges, support global income, employment and truly inclusive sustainable development, as well as the restoration of normal trade flows, to the benefit of the global economy."

"Other important objectives that we hope will enrich the "Abu Dhabi package" include: the conclusion of the negotiation on the elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies, which fulfils the mandate contained in Sustainable Development Goal 14.6; the definition of a program for a concrete and credible relaunch of the agricultural negotiations, which is a priority for the entire Membership; the strengthening of the debate on the nexus between trade and global environmental challenges, with a view to maximizing climate and environmental benefits while minimizing trade-restrictive impacts; and the legal incorporation of the plurilateral agreement on development investment facilitation into the WTO rules."

Ministerial Statement by Japan [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/46](#)

"Yet we must also make progress on reforming the WTO so that it is equipped to tackle new global challenges, such as climate change, supply chain disruptions, the widening gap among countries, and barriers in promoting digital trade."

Ministerial Statement by Kenya [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/63](#)

“The triple planetary crises of pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity, meanwhile, continue to ravage many countries, with distinctly devastating impacts on some of the most vulnerable economies, even as they try to wriggle out of the disastrous after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“This prevailing situation calls for a re-examination of the role of trade in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time – maintaining peace and security, reducing poverty and inequality, addressing environmental challenges and achieving inclusive and sustainable development. It is worth noting that international trade, anchored on a strengthened multilateral trading system, plays an indispensable role in achieving a more secure, resilient, equitable, inclusive and sustainable world.”

“Among our priorities for MC13 are adoption of tighter disciplines on subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, particularly for large scale, industrial distant water fishing. We urgently need in place special and differential treatment provisions that avail us the desired policy space to develop our marine fisheries sector. We also need to extend more structured support to small scale and artisanal fishing. We, therefore, look forward to the conclusion of the second phase of the fisheries negotiations to pave the way for a sustainable Blue Economy – and specifically, fishing industry – regimen globally.”

Ministerial Statement by Republic of Korea [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/27](#)

“I believe Ministers must engage in earnest dialogues about the role of the WTO in addressing current global issues, including "Trade and Sustainable Development" and "Trade and Inclusion.”

Ministerial Statement by Lao People’s Democratic Republic [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/15](#)

“MC13 is the defining moment for WTO and multi-lateral trading system. We need to work together towards a common objective, overcome their differences and agree on meaningful results that are important for our citizens, taking into account the following issues:

WTO reform. Lao PDR attaches great importance to dispute settlement reform and Lao PDR stands ready to work with all Members and engage in constructive discussions on any meaningful proposals in order to achieve this very important objective.

LDC and LLDC. As one of the LLDC Members, Lao PDR emphasizes that development and special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular LDCs and LLDCs, must remain central for integration into, and the credibility and efficiency of, the multilateral trading system, with a view of promoting economic diversification and sustainable development.”

Ministerial Statement by Latvia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/47](#)

“Trade serves as a valuable accompanying tool for sustainable development, protection of human rights and environment.

So, we welcome the efforts to reinforce the sustainability, inclusivity and climate agenda at the MC13.”

Ministerial Statement by Lithuania [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/9](#)

“Finally, we need to step aside from the negotiating papers of the past and look into the problems of today and the future. I call to join our forces to build a better and more sustainable world for everyone. It is time to solve all the aforementioned long-standing issues and make the impossible possible.”

Ministerial Statement by Madagascar [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/93](#)

“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.”

“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.”

Ministerial Statement by Malawi [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/11](#)

“Malawi is optimistic that the WTO can deliver in addressing these challenges. Equity, transparency, special and differential treatment should remain an integral part of all the WTO ongoing reforms. Economies like Malawi will put much emphasis on industrialisation, structural transformation, building productive capacities, promote diversification to foster inclusive sustainable development.”

Ministerial Statement by Malaysia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/77](#)

“Malaysia echoes the urgent call for climate action as set forth by the WTO's Director- General during the launching of "Trade Day" at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai. Acknowledging the interconnectedness of trade and climate concerns, we emphasise the need for collaborative efforts within the WTO to integrate sustainable practices and climate considerations into global trade policies. Malaysia stands ready to contribute to these efforts, ensuring that our trade practices resonate with the global commitment to combat climate change and foster a resilient and sustainable global economy.

In supporting sustainable efforts, Malaysia is pleased to announce that we have submitted the instrument of acceptance for the ratification of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement (FSA) here in Abu Dhabi. We are serious in our effort and commitment to foster sustainable global trade, and currently actively involved in the second wave of fisheries negotiations on outstanding issues related to overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF), and the special and differential treatment (S&DT). We hope that the FSA negotiations will achieve a consensus, ending in finalising the outstanding issues before it lapses in 2026.”

“In conclusion, Malaysia stands ready to collaborate with all WTO Members to strengthen the multilateral trading system. Let us seize this opportunity to build a future that is not only economically vibrant but also socially equitable and environmentally sustainable. Together, we can forge a path towards shared prosperity for all.”

Ministerial Statement by Moldova [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/108](#)

“The 13th Ministerial Conference takes place as we mark the 30th anniversary since the establishment of the WTO. During this period, trade has played a pivotal role in shaping our history, fostering development, and presenting opportunities for our growth. In our pursuit of trade liberalization and global economic integration, the Republic of Moldova reaffirms its dedication to fortifying the existing WTO Multilateral Trade System. Our goal is to facilitate economic, financial, inclusive, and sustainable development, ensuring that it aligns seamlessly with the evolving needs of our nation.”

Ministerial Statement by Mongolia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/23](#)

“Mongolia is committed to enhancing its WTO capacity through active participation in capacity building initiatives and technical assistance programs, aiming to effectively engage in WTO negotiations and activities. Through collaborative initiatives with other WTO Members, international organizations, and development partners, Mongolia aims to enhance its trade competitiveness, promote sustainable development, and contribute constructively to the multilateral trading system.

Mongolia recognizes the urgent need for global efforts to combat climate change and environmental pollution. As an LLDC with vast and pristine landscapes, Mongolia is acutely aware of the importance of preserving our environment for future generations. We are committed to deepening cooperation with other WTO Members in addressing the trade-related aspects of plastic pollution and advancing sustainable development goals.”

Ministerial Statement by Montenegro [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/38](#)

“International cooperation can and should address the three major challenges facing today's global economy: national and economic security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.”

“The Government of Montenegro reaffirms the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, while emphasizing the role that trade plays in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Montenegro fulfills its Membership commitments with great seriousness and dedication and is decisive alongside the other WTO Members, to make a difference on harmful fishing subsidies and activate the historic WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies that focuses on sustainability of marine resources.

It is my privilege to inform you that the Government of Montenegro adopted the Draft Law on Confirmation of the Protocol on Amendments to the Marrakesh Agreement on the Establishment of the WTO - Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. The session of the Parliament of Montenegro at which the Draft Law will be confirmed is planned for March this year, therefore we will submit the Instrument of Acceptance in the prescribed manner.”

“Montenegro gives full support to further negotiations also on sustainable agriculture, investment facilitation, trade in services, SMEs and empowering women entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, as essential policy issues that must be addressed in today's more interconnected markets.”

Ministerial Statement by Morocco [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/51](#)

“Regarding fisheries subsidies, Morocco welcomes the efforts made by Member countries at MC12, which led to a historic agreement on illegal fishing and overfished stocks, and reiterates the need to continue the efforts to achieve balanced disciplines on subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing.

In this regard, my country reiterates its commitment and attachment to working with all WTO Members to conclude these negotiations and remains optimistic because it considers that it is our duty and our responsibility to preserve our common heritage of living marine resources for future generations.

To achieve this, the agreement must provide for special and differential treatment, taking into account the realities of the countries as well as the exclusion of artisanal fishing for developing countries and LDCs, even the socio-economic weight of this activity and its insignificant share in the subsidies granted to fisheries.”

“Regarding environmental issues, Morocco has always supported the various actions of the WTO, notably those included in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, hence the importance for Members to rise to the challenge of plastic pollution and join the Dialogue on Plastic Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade.”

Ministerial Statement by Mozambique [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/57](#)

“It is a great pleasure and very important occasion, as Member, to be a part of the discussions for the topics of such relevance to the Multilateral Trading System, considering their significant importance for the Sustainable Development of economies. These priorities reflect a commitment to strengthening the rules-based of the multilateral system.”

“The acceptance of WTO Members to the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement will truly deliver trade sustainability. We believe that improving existing rules on subsidies is important to ensure a level playing field in international trade and the inclusion of MSME's value chain.”

“To conclude, the adoption of the Declaration of this 13th Ministerial Conference, which Mozambique supports, is an important contribution to the structural construction of the sustainable and inclusive agenda of the multilateral trade system.”

Ministerial Statement by Nicaragua [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/34](#)

“Thanks to its economic, political and social development model, the Government of Nicaragua has laid the foundations for progressive, inclusive and sustainable development and economic growth, with a focus on promoting the social benefits, and the increase, diversification and competitiveness, of domestic production and foreign trade for the benefit of the vast majority of our people.”

“As Members we must be fully aware of the harm caused by adopting unilateral measures that impact international trade and then justifying them as environmental measures when they are in fact disguised non-tariff policies. This only increases technical barriers to trade. We consider that environmental objectives are linked to international trade, therefore as governments we must foster appropriate environmental protection, taking into account the realities of our countries and the strong impact that we are facing owing to climate change for which we are not directly responsible, but that affects agricultural production and exports and thus our ability to deal with this great challenge.”

Ministerial Statement by Niger [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/79](#)

“The various crises currently affecting the world, namely geopolitical tensions, the security crisis and climate change, have enormous negative repercussions that impede economic growth and undermine our countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Ministerial Statement by Nigeria [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/62](#)

“In a little over a month's time, it will be 30 years since we signed the historic Marrakesh Agreement that established the WTO. Despite the current polycrisis, no one can rightly question the WTO's role in fostering the expansion of global trade and production as well as its contribution towards global sustainable development. Trade has been a key driver of economic growth and prosperity. However, what is evident is that while some countries have managed to harness the full benefits of technological advancements and of trade to boost their share of global economic growth, the reality is that most Developing Countries, are only capturing an insignificant fraction of that growth due to development challenges.”

“On Fisheries Subsidies, we welcome the increasing number of ratifications of the MC12 Fisheries Subsidies Agreement (FSA) and encourage Members who are yet conclude this process to expedite action. We also welcome the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism and call for it to be made easily accessible for Developing Countries to invest in their fisheries management systems. We are optimistic that MC13 would deliver a SDG14.6 consistent agreement on the outstanding issues, including overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF) that focuses on the most harmful subsidies with effective special and differential treatment for developing countries that are not responsible for OCOF and exemption for small players whose share of global marine captures is below 0.8%. In addition, artisanal and small-scale fishing should be excluded from the scope of application of the discipline.”

Ministerial Statement by Norway [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/61](#)

“We are close to an agreement on fisheries subsidies that addresses all of SDG 14.6. What we have before us is not perfect, but let us not make perfect the enemy of the good.

Subsidies contribute to overfishing. No agreement means no restrictions, meaning that the depletion of our common resources will continue.

This is an agreement about more than fish. It is about sustainability and people. All those people who depend on marine resources for their livelihood and as a source of food.”

“Another priority is to strengthen the deliberative function of the WTO. I welcome the opportunity to address some of the most pressing issues of our time here at MC13: trade and climate, and trade and inclusion. We need to have these conversations in an open and constructive manner.

Trade is an enabler of development. That notion is embedded in this Organization. We hope MC13 will prove to be a constructive contribution in that regard. Fisheries subsidies, food security and reform are all relevant to development.

It is within our power to make use of the opportunity that MC13 represents. To safeguard the rules-based trading system anchored in the WTO. For the sake of social and economic development. For environmental sustainability. For our generation and future generations.”

Ministerial Statement by Oman [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/90](#)

“The Sultanate of Oman recognizes the importance of addressing harmful fishing subsidies. Today, unsustainable fishing practices threaten marine wildlife as well as the livelihoods and food supply of many vulnerable communities. Oman seeks an agreement that balances conservation with the needs of developing and least developed country Members.”

“Integrating climate considerations into trade policies is crucial. Green trade practices, circular economy models and sustainable supply chains are essential. Let us explore synergies between trade and climate action for a resilient future.”

Ministerial Statement by Pakistan [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/55](#)

“Let me now turn to the multiple crises that have battered Member countries in recent years. Climate change, geopolitical tensions, natural disasters, unsustainable debt, and rising food insecurity have exacerbated global disparities and impeded development, especially for developing Members like Pakistan.”

“I am encouraged by the constructive engagement of Members in Phase 2 of the Fisheries Negotiations. Delivering on the SDG 14.6 mandate at MC13 is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability of our oceans and the livelihoods of millions who depend on them.”

Ministerial Statement by Panama [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/117](#)

“Panama hopes that this meeting will enable us to conclude the second wave of negotiations on fisheries subsidies. We would like to acknowledge the role of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland, Mr Einar Gunnarsson, who is chairing these important negotiations. Our commitment to the sustainable use of marine resources is clear, as we are one of the few countries that has achieved the UN's 30 by 30 target ahead of schedule. At present, Panama protects more than 54% of its exclusive economic zone.”

“We reiterate our willingness and high expectations that we will deliver significant results at this Ministerial Conference, enabling us to have a positive and reinvigorating impact on world trade, to strengthen the multilateral system, and to ensure that its benefits foster sustainable and inclusive development for all our citizens around the world.”

Ministerial Statement by Papua New Guinea [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/121](#)

“Papua New Guinea aligns itself to the Pacific Group, ACP and South Africa in making this Statement, Chair and esteemed colleagues, on Fisheries subsidies, I believe, the Decision made in Paragraph 4 of the MC12 and the mandate is very clear, the need to have a comprehensive agreement that has disciplines on harmful subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF) accompanied by appropriate and effective special and differential treatment with the mandate.

However, the current text is more focused on having disciplines on fisheries management and notification, making it more burdensome and restrictive to developing countries rather than addressing the problem of overcapacity and overfishing as a result of the harmful subsidies provided by large industrial fishing fleets and distant water fishing nations.”

“Papua New Guinea supports effective special and differential treatment so that the developing and small and most vulnerable countries are assisted and given the policy space to grow our fishing industries which are underdeveloped and for us to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system.

The reciprocal fisheries management and utilization arrangements relating to the management of our migratory stocks should not be hindered by this Agreement. Therefore, Papua New Guinea underlines the importance of recognizing the rights of coastal states under UNCLOS in determining terms of access for fishing which are considered fisheries management tools within our region, and these should not be undermined by this Agreement.”

“Finally, Papua New Guinea supports the ongoing work on the WTO Reform to make it more relevant, fair and equitable to the needs of its Members in view of the many challenges that we face such as climate change as well as build the capacities of the developing Members integrate into the multilateral trading system.”

Ministerial Statement by Paraguay [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/132](#)

“The world is paying close attention to the WTO and the multilateral trading system. For Paraguay, as a landlocked developing country, the answer is simple: more trade and less protectionism, through an inclusive multilateral system that supports sustainable development in its three pillars – economic, social and environmental – while ensuring that the gains from trade benefit EVERYONE.”

“We firmly believe that through the reform process set out in Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, the WTO can and MUST contribute to achieving the sustainable development that is so sought after. This means protecting and preserving the environment, as well as ensuring global food security. The reform must ensure fairer and more sustainable trade in which distortion and protection are substantially and progressively reduced.”

“Paraguay is convinced that international trade can make a positive contribution to the achievement of environmental goals, and that a rules-based, open, transparent, fairer and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its centre, is the means to achieve this.

The best way the WTO can contribute to this goal is by strengthening and deepening its rules rather than with exceptions to these rules, preventing the adoption of unilateral, trade-related environmental measures implemented by some WTO Members, which fragment international trade.”

Ministerial Statement by Peru [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/52](#)

“We welcome the intensive efforts of WTO Members who have worked over the past few weeks to reconcile positions in the second phase of negotiations on the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Reaching an outcome in these negotiations is crucial for protecting our oceans and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.”

“For Peru, it is of vital importance to ensure that international trade benefits everyone and is a tool for productive and sustainable development. In that connection, we support the work being done on SMEs and women’s economic empowerment through trade.”

Ministerial Statement by Philippines [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/17](#)

“At this Conference we need concrete action. This means prioritizing the needs of developing Members, particularly the least developed countries, and addressing specific challenges in agriculture, fisheries, industrial development, and digital trade.”

“We acknowledge that development goes beyond mere economic growth. It must be sustainable and inclusive. It is essential to prioritize environmental conservation, protect our oceans, and tackle climate change through trade policies that promote responsible practices. The landmark Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is an excellent example of this. But we must strengthen it by establishing effective enforcement measures and offering support to Members that endorse these initiatives.

We know that inclusive participation drives sustainable development. Empowering micro, small and medium sized enterprises, women entrepreneurs, and marginalized communities is essential for their participation in the global trade. To achieve this, we must bridge the digital gap by ensuring access to digital trade, facilitating knowledge transfer, and building capacity for developing Members.”

“Lastly, investing in sustainable fisheries, responsible agriculture, and a fair digital landscape, is also crucial for our collective future prosperity.”

Ministerial Statement by Poland [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/65](#)

“We are aware that international trade does not function in isolation and must support the achievement of other goals, such as increasing food security, building sustainable agricultural systems, high environmental protection standards and appropriate social policy. The international community expects us to achieve concrete results, such as reducing plastic pollution and CO2 emissions.”

Ministerial Statement by Portugal [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/16](#)

“A powerful, rules setting WTO, capable of overcoming trade disputes, implies further steps ahead in the several WTO layers:

The reform remains a priority. The "reform by doing" is making its way, with positive outcomes, but we need more. It is essential that the reform comprises institutional improvements, namely a fully functioning Dispute Settlement Mechanism, with an effective Appellate Body.

Furthermore, new rules that reflect the present challenges, both economic as well as those related with environment and climate change, are required.

It is also paramount to address new issues, such as sustainability, social development and gender equality, all essential to increase WTO's ability to deliver and gather the confidence of all in its capacity to produce results.”

We will cover a comprehensive and extended agenda during this Ministerial Conference, that encompasses a set of priorities as the dispute settlement reform, fisheries, agriculture, intellectual property rights, besides multilateral initiatives on investment facilitation, internal regulation of services and E-Commerce.”

“Trade is an engine for prosperity and sustainable development and both Timor-Leste and Comoros will now be part of the multilateral trading system and integrate the global value chains, becoming more attractive to foreign investment.”

Ministerial Statement by Rwanda [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/119](#)

“Rwanda acknowledges that economic development is fostered and enhanced through international cooperation, such as the work done at WTO and through the robustness of the Multilateral Trading System. Therefore, Rwanda encourages the maintenance and strengthening of the flexibilities reflective of different countries' capabilities. Rwanda, thus aligns itself with calls to make these flexibilities more precise, effective and operational as per the G90's Agreement Specific Proposals.

These flexibilities allow developing countries to effectively engage in the global community and economy, which we acknowledge as critical to attaining sustainable development.”

“Rwanda’s commitment to multilateralism and its power to improving lives means that we cherish our membership in the WTO and the role we have played in the Commonwealth of Nations, where His Excellency, President of the Republic of Rwanda currently holds the Chair-in-Office During the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting in June 2023, Ministers unanimously endorsed Rwanda’s proposal to deliver a joint statement in support of the Multilateral trading system on behalf of the Commonwealth Members. Therefore, I am pleased, on behalf of the Commonwealth Trade Ministers, with an exception to India, to communicate the following agreed statement:

We the Commonwealth Trade Ministers met in London on 5-6 June 2023 to reaffirm our strong commitment to a transparent, equitable, inclusive, fair, non-discriminatory, open and rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core.

The multilateral trading system is important for all our Members and in particular for developing countries, including least developed countries and small and vulnerable economies, including small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of climate change on all our members and call for urgent actions to tackle the climate crisis while ensuring a just and inclusive transition to a green economy.”

“We urge Members to conclude negotiations on outstanding issues related to the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, with due regard to the principle of special and differential treatment, and ratify and implement the Agreement, including with the support of the Fisheries Funding Mechanism.”

Ministerial Statement by Samoa [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/86](#)

“Lack of progress in the WTO negotiations on agriculture, fisheries subsidies, WTO reform, special and differential treatment and services is of concern to us in the face of these challenges. In addition, unfair competition, non-tariff barriers contained in some Members’ unilateral environmental sustainability regulations continue to harm exports from Samoa, and from other members of the OACPS. As a result, our members have not been able to significantly increase their exports and currently account for only about 2% of world trade. Despite the fact that the OACPS consists of 79 members and represents 13% of the world’s population, our contribution to global GDP is less than 4%.”

“Samoa has been participating actively in the fisheries subsidies phase II negotiations on the overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF) outstanding pillar, and remains of the view that the disciplines should target the top largest subsidizers who are the cause of the problem, while including exemptions for Least Developed Countries, for members whose marine share of global fish catch is below an appropriate de minimis threshold, and for artisanal/small-scale fishing. We emphasize that notification requirements should not be burdensome for developing and least developed countries who are not the cause.”

“WTO reform should be centred on the principles of equitable growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries; and should account for the fact that majority of WTO Members are developing countries seeking to increase their share in world trade.”

Ministerial Statement by Senegal [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/72](#)

“With respect to the second wave of negotiations on subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing, Senegal recalls that the disciplines must be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

In this connection, it is important to exclude small-scale and artisanal fishing from the scope of the Agreement, so that developing countries have sufficient policy space to support this sector which is vital to their economies.

Furthermore, the Agreement should not challenge the sovereignty of Members in their own exclusive economic zones (EEZ).

Lastly, in line with target 14.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, special and differential treatment must be an integral part of the disciplines.”

“Similarly, environmental sustainability must be a key concern in all our trade transactions. By encouraging environmentally sound practices, promoting renewable energy and integrating ecological criteria into our trade agreements, we can build a future where trade does not compromise the health of our planet.”

Ministerial Statement by Seychelles [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/37](#)

“At present, risks and uncertainties pervade our global landscape; the world is grappling with a range of crises, from geopolitical tensions to rising debt distresses, all exacerbated by the devastating effects of climate change which Seychelles, as a small island developing state, is especially affected by. The Seychelles may be just a small group of islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean, but it is also part of that global village, and it feels the full impact of these crises, even more so than most. We, however, are always hopeful because history has proven again and again that it is precisely in such times of adversity that our collective efforts and capacity for transformative action are truly revealed.

At the heart of our concerns lies the necessity to discipline certain forms of subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, in line with the mandates set out in that of SDG 14.6 and those articulated in the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies Ministerial Decision of June 2022. The achievement of these comprehensive disciplines should be appropriately balanced and should include appropriate special and differential treatment provisions for the requisite policy space to allow developing and least developed countries' small-scale fisheries to fully benefit from its potential in terms of food security, livelihoods, and employment.

Aligned with the principle of sustainability and mindful of the crucial need to safeguard the health of our oceans, I encourage fellow Members who have yet to ratify the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to do so. Additionally, I commend the work undertaken in relation to the Fisheries Funding Mechanism, to which Seychelles is a beneficiary, and look forward to further developments in this regard.”

Ministerial Statement by Singapore [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/106](#)

“For Singapore, a successful MC13 would include progress in three areas. One, WTO reform, including consensus on an effective dispute settlement system. Two, the extension of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions; and three, addressing the pressing challenges arising from food insecurity as well as those relating to sustainability and the environment.”

Ministerial Statement by Slovak Republic [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/69](#)

“Moreover, in order to respond to the challenges of the 21st century, as environmental issues or industrial subsidies, a reformed WTO must adapt and be able to tackle these issues and incorporate them into future trade negotiations.”

“Furthermore, in order to address the global fish stock sustainability concerns, we have to build on the successful achievements of the MC12 by concluding the second phase of negotiations on fisheries subsidies.”

Ministerial Statement by Slovenia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/92](#)

“A well-functioning multilateral trading system is of vital importance for Slovenia, an open and export-oriented economy, and a Member State of the European Union. We therefore continue to strive for effective multilateral solutions that facilitate trade as a positive contributor to sustainable social and economic development.”

“Slovenia appreciates the follow-up work building on the MC12 outcomes, including fisheries subsidies, food security, the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions (e- moratorium), and especially on the WTO modernization.”

“At MC12, we reached a landmark agreement on disciplining harmful fisheries subsidies worldwide. To deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.6, and to achieve economic, environmental, and social impacts, Slovenia underlines the importance of completing the negotiations on additional rules”

“In Abu Dhabi, Members should be able to agree on the way forward in addressing the key issues. Until MC14, Members should revive the WTO as the forum for discussing the global adversities affecting the multilateral trading system. For example, for deliberating on the links between trade and industrial policy, trade and global environmental challenges, trade and inclusiveness. Such deliberations can pave the way towards possible rulemaking in the future.”

Ministerial Statement by Solomon Islands [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/98](#)

“On the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, significant ground has been covered and some tough decisions must be made if we are to have a meaningful outcome that fully meets SDG 14.6 and Paragraph 4 of the MC12 Decision on Fisheries Subsidies. An outlook, which currently does not look promising. Regrettably, the deliberations continue to undermine the policy space to allow for responsible growth in our fisheries sector and further the preservation of our fishing arrangements and differential licensing arrangements. The current text maintains the status quo, leaning favourably towards the major subsidizers with a mere focus on notifications and sustainability.

Onerous and burdensome notification requirements serves little purpose in the meeting of SDG 14.6. Solomon Islands alongside the Pacific Island States have persevered in our effective stewardship of fisheries resources and management. The World Trade Organization is not a fisheries management organization. Solomon Islands has consistently called for effective and meaningful disciplines on fisheries subsidies that target large, industrialized vessels from the Distant Water Fishing Nations. This is effective and meaningful disciplines in the form of a standstill or reduction of harmful subsidies. The Fisheries Subsidies Agreement is yet to strike this required sound balance.

Fisheries is not just one aspect of Solomon Islands economic activities. Fisheries is our way of life; it's part of our culture both in terms of maintaining our peoples' livelihood and food security, but also keeping community social cohesion.”

Regarding Development, the lack of progress is deeply concerning. Solomon Islands is a coastal, geographically dispersed country, with further obstacles in physical connectivity to markets. Our systems are fragile and we are vulnerably exposed. It only takes a single natural disaster or a global crisis of any magnitude to provoke irreparable consequences for Solomon Islands and reverse years of sustainable development gains on poverty elimination and the progress of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

Ministerial Statement by Switzerland [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/7](#)

“Reforming the WTO is also about opening up to new issues. The link between trade and the environment is clear. This Organization must assume leadership in this area and show how trade can help to address environmental and climate issues.”

Ministerial Statement by Thailand [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/3](#)

“Concerning the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, Thailand acknowledges the necessity for all WTO Members to implement sound fisheries management practices. We stress the need for a harmonious balance between stringent disciplines and the provision of Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) for developing countries, along with the requisite flexibility for small-scale fisheries.

Thailand's contemporary economic strategies are in alignment with the principles of the WTO, signifying our commitment to sustainable development and the facilitation of technology transfer to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Our goal is to achieve economic prosperity while maintaining environmental integrity.”

Ministerial Statement by Togo [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/73](#)

“In view of the adverse impacts of climate change on LDCs, Togo calls for the revitalization of the work of the Committee on Trade and Environment to help developing countries and LDCs respond to the environmental challenges associated with trade.”

“Togo welcomed the adoption of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies at MC12 on 17 June 2022. This Agreement marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies.

We support the position of LDCs in phase II of the multilateral negotiations on fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, pursuant to the Doha and Hong Kong Ministerial mandates, target 14.6 of the SDGs and the mandate for further negotiations in the Ministerial Decision on the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

In addition, we support the OACPS regarding the preservation of Members' right to determine national fisheries management systems.

Togo urges Members to ratify the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, with a view to its entry into force.”

Ministerial Statement by Tonga [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/87](#)

“Indeed, climate change remains a grave threat to our economy and very existence. Resilience-building and economic recovery continues to be of utmost priority with which we still rely heavily on donors and external support. This and other vulnerabilities significantly hinder development and meaningful progress for small island developing states such as Tonga. In this connection, Tonga recognizes the need to support the work to better assist developing countries and LDCs who are grappling with the crippling effects of polycrises including those related to climate, health and other global phenomena.

It is already common knowledge that fisheries provide a critical source of livelihood, economic development and food security for our countries and region. The ocean and its resources are not only critical for our economies, but they also form core aspects of our social and cultural identities given that we in the Pacific are surrounded by the largest ocean in the world.

As such, Tonga joins the call to expedite the ratification of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement which should, among other aims, effectively address overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF), and target the most harmful subsidies. Consideration for special and differential treatment for developing countries that are not responsible for OCOF – including providing exemptions for LDCs and newly graduated LDCs – is therefore imperative. Tonga welcomes the Fisheries Funding Mechanism and underlines that it must be easily accessible, while allowing Members the prerogative to determine their own national fisheries systems.”

Ministerial Statement by Tunisia [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/53](#)

“Tunisia firmly believes that the WTO, as the guardian of global trade rules, must play a crucial role in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda.”

“In addition, we are resolved to adopt a strong and effective agreement on fisheries subsidies at MC13, thereby enabling the WTO to show that it can contribute to the conservation of fishery resources to ensure their sustainability, in accordance with target 14.6 of the SDGs, while recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing countries and LDCs is an integral part of any outcome.”

“MC13 should provide clear guidance on our future work and agree on robust programmes of work that take into account the different levels of development of Members by providing the necessary support to developing countries and LDCs to increase their capacity to meet sustainable development needs.”

Ministerial Statement by Türkiye [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/97](#)

“As a common global challenge, the climate change should also be one of the focus of the WTO, and the multilateralism should be the main approach for tackling the issues of trade and environment effectively.”

“On fisheries, Türkiye submitted its instrument of acceptance for the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement on the occasion of the MC13. We look forward to the conclusion of negotiations on the second phase of the Agreement, regarding the subsidies leading to overcapacity and overfishing. A balanced agreement in this area will be critical not only in terms of sustainability of the marine resources, but also for supporting livelihood fishing activities in developing world.”

Ministerial Statement by Uganda [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/102](#)

“Development is one of the fundamental aspects of the multilateral trading system anchored in the Doha Development Agenda. The interface between Trade and topical issues like Industrial Policy, Technology, Climate change and Inclusivity are critical aspects for Uganda. MC13 should provide a clear roadmap on the mandate and expectations for MC14.

The WTO should address policy and systemic global trade concerns. The world demands global solutions for food insecurity, future pandemics and access to health products. All efforts to address trade distorting agricultural subsidies, fisheries subsidies; expanding innovation and local manufacturing capacities should call for a Political commitment in our Outcome document. On the fisheries Subsidies Agreement (FSA), we welcome its conclusion by WTO and urge all Members to ratify so that it enters into force.

We are committed to delivering viable outcomes at MC13 such that we build resilient trade frameworks. The WTO is the pillar for world trade, it is a negotiating forum. We need to work together to shape the future of global trade. On the ongoing reforms, clear solutions have to come up to make trade more efficient, inclusive and sustainable.”

Ministerial Statement by Ukraine [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/126](#)

“With regards to ensuring sustainability in the global trade, Ukraine reiterates its commitment to safeguard global food security, improve lives for future generations and strengthen the multilateral trading system. Ukraine is honored to be among the first Members submitting acceptance of the Protocol of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and is set to go full throttle in order to achieve a meaningful reduction in subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing and maintain an effective management of the fisheries resources. Luckily, we won't be doing it alone.

Ukraine commends WTO Members for engaging eagerly and constructively in the second wave of negotiations to curbing subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing. We have a common goal to agree on additional fisheries subsidies disciplines further enhancing those of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and all the means to make MC13 margins a place to find a realistic landing zone. Let's do it twice and multiply the historical success of MC12.”

Ministerial Communication by the United Arab Emirates [WT/MIN\(24\)/13](#)

“Sustainability has emerged as a central theme, with businesses increasingly integrating eco-friendly practices into their operations, responding to both consumer demands and a broader commitment to environmental responsibility. Furthermore, a notable shift towards inclusion is underway, as efforts to reduce trade barriers and promote fair practices aim to facilitate the participation of businesses of all sizes and locations in the global marketplace.”

“As we navigate this transformative era of trade, it becomes imperative for the international community to embrace and adapt to these technologies, fostering a collaborative environment that ensures the sustainable growth and resilience of global trade.”

“Sustainability has become a focal point in shaping supply chain dynamics for the future. A confluence of factors, including commitments to combat climate change, the surge in conscious consumerism, and the establishment of global governance standards for sustainability, is driving a fundamental shift towards more environmentally responsible and socially conscious global supply chains. Recognizing the interconnected nature of sustainability, these commitments are poised to influence every facet of global trade, spanning raw materials, intermediate products, the product life cycle, and the entire value chain involving business partners and suppliers.

This transformative journey towards sustainable trade is accompanied by a wave of policy innovations that are shaping the landscape. Initiatives such as green product labeling, national green freight programs, and Green Public Procurement Policies are gaining momentum, incentivizing businesses to adopt eco-friendly practices. Additionally, trade facilitation for renewable energy equipment is playing a pivotal role in advancing sustainable technologies globally. Notably, some regions and countries are taking assertive steps by implementing Environmental Tariffs and Border Carbon Adjustments, effectively directing producers towards the adoption of greener technologies and processes, thereby enhancing their market access.

Moving forward, a commitment to sustainability emerges as not only an ethical imperative but also a strategic necessity. International cooperation will be critical to implement green initiatives, promote innovation and the adoption of eco-friendly technologies to address climate concerns and adhere to global governance standards that prioritize sustainability across entire supply chains.”

“The global emphasis on sustainability and the swift technological advancements reshaping trade are inadvertently imposing an additional, unintended constraint. Sustainability requirements in international trade agreements, including eco-friendly production and ethical supply chain practices, demand significant investments in technology and compliance mechanisms. Larger and more resource-rich companies can easily meet these requirements, gaining a competitive advantage.”

Ministerial Statement by United Kingdom [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/120](#)

“The United Kingdom wants to see an agreement that protects our oceans and delivers sustainable fisheries – which are so vital to coastal communities around the world.”

Ministerial Statement by Uruguay [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/39](#)

“Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, specifically the reduction of domestic support and the improvement of market access conditions. This is necessary to ensure economically, socially and environmentally sustainable food systems, and to contribute to global food security.”

“To revitalize the WTO's negotiating function, there is also a need to move forward and produce new agreements. Since its creation in 1995 to date, the WTO has produced only two multilateral agreements: the Trade Facilitation Agreement, at the Ministerial Conference in 2013, and the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, at the previous Ministerial Conference, in 2022. Today, Uruguay is depositing its instrument of acceptance with the hope that we can reach the necessary number of accessions for this Agreement – an example of how trade can contribute to environmental objectives – to enter into force as soon as possible and contribute to the sustainability of the oceans. We also hope to move forward in the second phase of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, regarding outstanding issues, to address global problems with global rules.

Another of the global challenges we face is climate change, and while the relationship between trade and environmental sustainability is complex and multidimensional, the adoption of unilateral measures can lead to barriers to trade and give rise to greater obstacles that ultimately cause more harm. The comparative advantages of the best-performing countries in terms of sustainable food production must be harnessed. In this regard, a strengthened WTO can play an important role in improving coherence between trade and environmental policies, and it can contribute to making trade more sustainable, thereby helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which we set ourselves almost 10 years ago.”

Ministerial Statement by Vanuatu [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/104](#)

“International Trade and Development agenda has been the core pillar for development, contributing to economic growth. Vanuatu had committed to its National Sustainable Development Plan to increase trade, create employment and development opportunities for its people. But like many countries, Vanuatu is prone to the economic shock caused by the recent pandemic and not to mention the ongoing natural disasters affecting our development, health, trade and social protection systems.”

“My government acknowledged the conclusion of the first phase of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement negotiation. The commitment has delivered on the Sustainable Development Goal 14.6¹ in disciplining harmful subsidies affecting our fisheries resources, however as a small country we want to see a complete agreement that fully addresses the discipline on overcapacity and overfishing.”

“Trade and Environment is important for a small developing state like Vanuatu, the discussion on its measures should address the ongoing pollution and not to mention the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform as a matter of priority in order to prevent the harmful effects in particular on the agriculture and fisheries sectors.”

Ministerial Statement by Viet Nam [WT/MIN\(24\)/ST/99](#)

“Over the past year, the world economy and global trade in general and the multilateral trading system in particular have always dealt with many difficulties and challenges due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the adverse effects of climate change and the impacts of geopolitical fluctuations in numerous regions in the world. (. ...) In particular, the trend of trade protection through trade defense measures and new "technical barriers", such as increasingly strict regulations and requirements on labor and environmental conservation, exerting notable influence on global trade flows.

Nevertheless, I am happy to see that the WTO has effectively shown its leading role in promoting the trade liberalization process in such a challenging situation. The outcomes achieved at MC12 with the "Geneva Package" have been operationalized quite positively. In particular, an increasing number of WTO Members have ratified the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.”

“In particular, reforms relating to environmental factors, labor, and sustainable development must be transparent, compatible with the unique characteristics of each country, and comply with WTO's fundamental principles, including the most-favored nation (MFN) and national treatment (NT).”