

**ADDRESS BY H.E. MINISTER RACHID MOHAMED RACHID  
MINISTER OF TRADE & INDUSTRY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
to the meeting organized by the  
Islamic Bank for Development**

**THE SEVENTH WTO TRADE MINISTERIAL MEETING  
(Geneva, 30 November to 2 December 2009)**

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**Honorable Ministers ...**

**Distinguish Ambassadors ...**

**Islamic Development Bank Officials ...**

**Ladies and Gentlemen ...**

**I would like to thank the Islamic Development Bank for organizing and hosting this meeting. I would like also to thank the Islamic Development Bank for the efforts and programs which it adopted to help the member countries of the Bank in preparing themselves to the WTO negotiations, and one of those activities is the trade policy course for the Bank members that took place in Cairo from 25th of October to 19th of November 2009.**

**Our meeting today is a vital one as it comes after the senior officials meetings and before starting the 7th ministerial meeting of the WTO, which is titled “The WTO, the multilateral trading system, and the current global economic environment”.**

**Our economies have been suffering from the global economic crisis. We are confronted with the protectionist measures imposed by our developed partners in the mid of the financial crisis, which have adverse effects on our competitiveness. These measures would draw us backward from the main WTO objectives of achieving global trade liberalization.**

**Yet, we have always recognized the role of international trade in promoting economic development, creating jobs and alleviating poverty. That is why, we believe that a fair and successful conclusion of the DDA will represent an urgently needed stimulus package for Developing Countries.**

**We should be sure that the early conclusion of the round should not come at the cost of achieving the developmental dimension of the DDA. Delivering on “development”, should remain the major target for the collective ability of the international community to strengthen the multilateral trading system.**

**We still believe that the Round should be concluded in 2010, and that the positive political wills expressed by most WTO Members should be interpreted into clear and flexible positions from the part of our developed trading partners.**

**Finally, we need to translate the political signals of commitment to the successful conclusion of the DDA. Thus, the negotiations**

**should be pursued based on the principles of multilateralism, full transparency and inclusiveness, while building on the progress achieved so far.**

**Thank you**