אפריל 2015

Thank you Angelos and good afternoon everyone

I would like to thank our hosts, the EU, for their generosity and hard work organizing this intensive round.

For Israel, inclusiveness is an important part of this negotiation, and as such, we are happy to welcome all WTO members wishing to join. We are of the opinion that all acceding members must make a commitment to take all necessary steps aimed at enhancing our work, and not delaying it.

We feel that we have made some good progress this week, We are pleased with the intercessional work done by the proponents on some of the topics, and we encourage all proponents to make an effort to further consult and consolidate intercessionaly.

Looking forward to July's stocktaking,

Israel believes that a concrete outcome is desirable. This should include identification of the annexes where stabilization is within reach and the specific issues within these Annexes which may require political guidance,

some of the Annexes need to be further developed by proponents in order to build broader support.

Additionally, we think that it is very important to address some aspects of the core text, which remain open, such as MFN, in the relatively near future.

Market Access negotiations, both in bilateral and plurilateral fora, based upon complete offers, are important.

Having said that, in terms of time management it is important to strike the balance, so that we do not lose the positive momentum gained on the annexes in the recent rounds.

The stocktaking could also be a good opportunity to discuss our shared vision for finalizing the negotiations and setting a tentative schedule enabling us to reach this goal.

Thank you.