

Trade Policy Review of Bangladesh 2018 Concluding Speech of Hon'ble Commerce Minister

Distinguished Members

I like to take the opportunity once again to express my appreciation to you for the very lively discussions and keen interest about our economy. During the two days sessions, my delegation carefully listens to your valuable comments and took note of the discussions. We already responded of the written questions that we have received until 3 April 2019. We however, received some follow-up questions which we could not manage to respond due to time constraints. I however, like to assure to respond those questions once we return back to our capital. My delegation will also reply to the additional follow-up questions once we receive them in writing. We firmly believe that the issues raised here will contribute in improving our trade policy, promoting our trade and investment and strengthen our multilateral ties.

I also like to reiterate our commitment to the multilateral trading system under the WTO. Bangladesh highly regards the value of TPR as a central pillar of the WTO as it provides a unique opportunity in improving trade policy regimes and bringing transparency into the system.

Excellencies

We all agree that the WTO is now passing a critical phase. We could not deliver what we promised at Doha. This has been posing challenge in upholding trust on the multilateral trading system. We should note that our discussions here will not only impact on global trade, but has serious implications on the lives and livelihood of the million people, particularly to those living in the economically vulnerable countries.

You all appreciated for our impressive GDP growth and remarkable achievements in attaining MDGs target. This is however, not enough in achieving our SDG targets, particularly in ensuring poverty and hunger free country and facing graduation challenges. We therefore, need more trade opportunities for sustainable graduation and fulfilling the SDG goals.

Distinguished Delegates

Given the present momentum of graduation of a number of LDCs, I urge upon the WTO Members to develop a time bound action plan with special emphasis on preferential market access and continuation of other exemptions that they are currently enjoying in ensuring sustainable graduation. We look forward to receive meaningful cooperation from the Members and the developed partners.

Thank you once again.