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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MINISTER BRAMBLE SUCCESSFULLY CHAIRS WTO MINISTERIAL SESSION ON IFDA**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, March 30, 2026** — The Honourable Dwight Fitzgerald Bramble, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Foreign Investment and Diaspora Affairs successfully chaired World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Session on the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement (IFDA).

The 166 member countries of the WTO met on Saturday, March 28, 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, within the 14<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference, under the Chairmanship of Minister Bramble to decide on the request submitted by 129 members for the IFDA into the WTO legal framework.

As Facilitator, Minister Bramble noted the broad backing for the IFDA and highlighted its development benefits. About 80 delegations, including the CARICOM members, took the floor to urge the incorporation of the IFDA into the WTO framework and called for progress toward concrete development outcomes. They stressed that incorporation would help unlock investment potential in developing economies and signal confidence in the WTO and the multilateral trading system, which is critical for all WTO members, particularly small economies.

India remained the sole member opposing incorporation of the IFDA. While India indicated it could not join consensus at this time, it signaled openness to continued discussions. Minister Bramble stated he would continue consultations with the aim of finding a constructive path forward.

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For further information, please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs at telephone number 784-456-2060.