



Instead, we are here faced with a dilemma of deciding the future direction of our engagement, on whether to continue with the DDA mandate or simply to do away with it.

Solomon Islands recognizes that the DDA mandate sufficiently takes into account the development needs of the LDCs and Small and Vulnerable members and by doing away with it, will further marginalize them from the multilateral trading system.

We believe that the continuing impasse we experience in concluding the DDA negotiation is not because of the flaws in the mandate or the process in which we engage but because of the unwillingness on our part to exercise the political will to broker consensus in our negotiations.

The growing ideological divide of opinions by technocrats that polarizes the negotiation process in Geneva has led only to deadlock in negotiations. This attitude needs to change. We have to be pragmatic and cognizant of our shared responsibility to tackle the trade and economic inequalities that exist amongst members and work towards integrating the weak and most vulnerable members in to the global economy.

At this Conference, we call on all members to deliver on the Doha Round's development mandate as a matter of priority. Our position is clear on this – the outstanding development issues related to the DDA must be addressed first and foremost.

Of particular interest to Solomon Islands is Rules negotiations on fisheries. We believe that by putting in place disciplines on fisheries

