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issue at stake is the binding nature of the agreement to be concluded at the WTO without an equally binding assurance that developing countries and LDCs would be provided with the required technical, financial, and capacity building assistance as enshrined in Annex D of the July 2004 Framework and Annex E of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December 2005. This demand is absolutely necessary and developing countries should continuously push for it since trade facilitation measures can be overly-burdensome financially.

7. The Doha Round has the potential to reverse the marginalization of LDCs and help them to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Issues of importance to LDCs, including duty-free quota-free access with flexible rules of origin, cotton and services waiver must be given priority in the continuing effort to advance the Doha Work programme. There is, however, the need for LDCs to first resolve their internal differences. This needs to be backed up with practical measures to enable LDCs to make use of new opportunities. In that regard, the Enhance Integrated Framework programme and public-private partnerships should be strengthened so that targeted programmes can be implemented to ensure that LDCs benefit from market access opportunities.

8. It is unfortunate that, despite the intensification of negotiations since the new Director General assumed office in September 2013, the early harvest Doha package for Bali also faced daunting challenges and could not be multilateralised as a stepping stone to conclude the Round. Members are urged to stabilize elements in the early harvest package in order to move the negotiations forward and not back track.

9. There is no doubt that the WTO is a great global asset. It has contributed tremendously to the expansion of the global economy since its creation in 1995. This is a system with three legs - implementing existing agreements, settling disputes and negotiating. As a forum for negotiating trade rules and settling disputes the WTO remains irreplaceable. Although implementing existing agreements and settling disputes are functioning quite well, there is a sense among many that the WTO has lost its negotiating way. How long can it stand on only two? The WTO's negotiating role has not only faltered but is gradually being weakened as the action has moved elsewhere leading to the surge in plurilateral, preferential and bilateral trade agreements. Dispute settlement has become correspondingly more dominant. And at the policy level an organisation once noted for a pragmatic and businesslike approach risks becoming a talking shop where delegations rehearse well-worn speeches because there is little incentive to do otherwise.

10. Reinvigorating the negotiating role of the WTO is crucial to the longer-term credibility of the organization. This is not to neglect all the other important work of the WTO, from resisting protectionism to building trade capacity in developing countries. This work is vital and it must be enhanced, in co-operation with other agencies. The central need, though, is to refocus on the areas where the WTO adds its unique value and which are badly in need of revival.

11. This situation can be turned around. The starting point is to



13. A successful conclusion to the Doha Round and a reinvigorated multilateral trading system would deliver opportunities to all participants,