

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

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in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 13 November 2001.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the rules-b

binding. Any new preferences granted should not undermine existing terms and conditions of access. Furthermore, Africa should be assisted to make full use of and benefit from enhanced preferences.

6. We urge developed country members of the WTO to fulfil their obligations and undertakings with regard to capacity building and other technical assistance support to developing and least developed countries in letter and spirit. In this respect, we have taken stock of the information

services, we emphasize the need for effective implementation of GATS provisions on improving market access in sectors and modes of export interest to African countries.

15. We recognize that issues such as trade and investment, competition, transparency in government procurement, trade facilitation, trade and environment and e-commerce are important. However, we agree that these issues are not a priority at this stage and on-going processes should continue in order to prepare for possible future work in this area.

16. We affirm the common understanding that the TRIPS Agreement allows Members to take all necessary measures to provide access to medicine at affordable prices and promote public health and nutrition. We, further, reiterate the need for adequate protection of traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

17. We underscore our view that regional and sub-regional integration among developing countries are essential to reversing the process of marginalization and constitute a dynamic building block for their effective integration into the MTS.

18. We regret the lack of progress on the issue of granting of observer status and in this regard, we reiterate the need to grant permanent observer status to the Organisation of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) and other inter-governmental organisations in view of their trade policy mandate.

19. We recognize the critical importance of a transparent and inclusive decision-making process in the WTO and that this is vital to maintaining confidence in the Organisation. In this regard, a Ministerial Decision is required at Doha to guarantee that the process of decision-making is transparent and inclusive in the WTO.

20. We thank the Government and People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the meeting, for the warm hospitality and for all the facilities put at our disposal.

Done in Abuja, Nigeria on this day of 23 September 2001

**Africa's Negotiating Objectives for the Fourth
Ministerial Conference of the WTO**

- (g) An understanding that the review of the TRIPS Agreement under Article 71.1 shall examine to what extent the objectives set out therein have been fulfilled, taking into account the review of Article 27.3(b) (patenting of life forms, traditional knowledge and biological resources);
- (h) Reaffirmation that the provisions of Article 5.3 of the TRIMs Agreement recognizes the trade, development, and financial needs of developing countries and noting that the Article 9 review shall entail, *inter alia*, an examination of the effects of this Agreement on the development prospects of developing countries;
- (i) Completion of the work programme on the harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin;
- (j) Further action towards implementation of the Marrakesh Declaration on Achieving Greater Coherence in Global Economic Policy-Making;

Development partners and agencies, such as the World Bank and UNDP, with the resources and mandates to provide this support are called upon to do so;

- (b) Regarding standard-setting and quality control, the provision of technical and financial assistance is required to meet the demands of compliance. In this regard, Article 9 of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement and Articles 11 and 12 of the Trade Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement should be transformed into binding commitments;
- (c) The Integrated Framework (IF) remains a viable mandate for delivering co-ordinated trade and trade-related technical assistance to LDCs and mainstreaming of trade policies. The IF requires adequate funding and greater transparency in its implementation, including the basis for selecting beneficiary countries;
- (d) On accession of LDCs, the following measures adopted under Commitment 5 at the LDC III Conference should provide the WTO with guidance on this matter:
 - ensuring that the accession process is less onerous and tailored to their specific economic conditions, inter alia, by streamlining WTO procedural requirements;
 - providing for automatic eligibility of all acceding LDCs for all provisions on special and differential treatment measures in existing WTO agreements;
 - in view of LDCs' special economic situation and their development, financial and trade needs, WTO members should exercise restraint, in seeking concessions in the negotiations on market access for goods and services in keeping with the letter and spirit of the provisions of the Ministerial Decision on Measures in Favour of the Least-Developed Countries;
 - seeking from LDCs in the accession stage only commitments that are commensurate with their level of development, and not higher than those

- (a) The African Group has been guided by the objectives of the continuation of the reform process contained in the preamble and in Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA);
- (b) The preamble of the AoA states that the objective of the reform of trade in agriculture should aim at providing "for substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection sustained over a period of time, resulting in correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets";
- (c) Of critical importance to the African Group are provisions which identify non-trade concerns; Special and Differential (S & D) Treatment; Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) and Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs) concerns; and the establishment of a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, which must be the guiding principles of the reform process. The specific concerns of small island and land-locked developing countries should be substantially addressed;
- (d) S&D treatment is a horizontal issue cutting across market access, export competition and domestic support to compensate for structural and economic inequalities between developing and developed countries in terms of their share of world trade, access to technology and financing as well as infrastructure. An operational and binding S&D treatment is therefore vital;
- (e) Given the conditions of agriculture in Africa, the reform should:
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greater liberalization of Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons), especially by developed countries, through the elimination of barriers to market access;

- providing credit for autonomous liberalisation, in services sectors undertaken by African countries;
- support for work in the rules-making area, especially on Emergency Safeguards Measures to be expedited;
- reserving the right of members to regulate the services sectors; and
- the revision of Articles VIII and IX of GATS in order to, in particular, take into account the concerns regarding the transfer of technology and technical know-how with regard to investments by multi-nationals.

E. Singapore and other issues

10. In the area of Singapore and other issues, the following factors are of critical importance:

- African countries are not "demandeurs" of multilateral agreements on the issues concerned;
- African countries generally lack capacity for implementation of obligations in the area;
- most African countries remain to be convinced of the potential of the proposed new multilateral Agreements to deliver tangible benefits to them;
- African countries are concerned over the added burden of obligations in the face of present Implementation challenges facing them; with a similar concern over the dangers of overloading the agenda of the WTO;
- African countries note that so far there appears to be no consensus among members of the WTO, to launch negotiations in these areas; and
- African countries recall that various working groups have been established to commence studies on the respective subjects.

- African countries are generally prepared to examine issues relating to transparency in government procurement but not market access; and
- the issues involved are complex; especially given that the implications of a multilateral framework on transparency in government procurement on social and economic development, is yet to be fully comprehended.

Trade and competition policy

- most African countries do not have the necessary legal and administrative infrastructure and pre-requisites to deal with competition policy.
- furthermore, the inter-relationship between competition and economic development is a complex one, which needs to be fully explored; and
- it is imperative that technical assistance should be provided for capacity building during the on-going educative process.

Trade facilitation

- the general assessment is that trade facilitation measures are necessary and beneficial to all countries. In this context, on-going work within and outside the WTO (e.g. rules of origin, customs valuation) should continue. Improved facilitation will require increased technical and financial assistance to narrow the technology and human resources gaps that exist between developed and developing countries.

Core labour standards

- core labour standards should remain under the purview of the ILO.

Trade and environment

- African countries fully support the on-going balanced work-programme of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment while underscoring that environmental considerations should not be used for protectionist purposes; and
- further, African countries recognize the importance of transfer of environmentally friendly technology to developing countries. It is essential that developed countries provide assistance in this area.

Electronic commerce

- useful work has been undertaken in this area at the WTO. The current work programme should be pursued further and the educative process continued.

Non-agricultural market access

- the effective participation by African countries in negotiations in this area requires in-depth technical analysis to identify precisely the challenges and the opportunities involved in industrial tariff negotiations. UNCTAD,

UNIDO and other relevant agencies are requested to continue their assistance and support to African countries in this area.

- agreement to engage in industrial tariff negotiations is made conditional on completion of a study process which should include the effect of previous and any future tariff reductions on African countries' industries.
