

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

the services sector is contributing significantly to our foreign exchange earnings. It is imperative therefore that the focus of the ongoing GATS negotiations should be towards further development of the services sector in developing countries.

5. In light of the above, Uganda therefore advocates for a revisit to the provisions relating to Mode 4 Supply, the maintenance of GATS architecture, especially the provisions of the most-favoured-nation, and the flexibility for LDCs to liberalize in selected sectors.

Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

6. Certainly, there continues to remain a huge technological gap between developed countries and LDCs. Therefore, Uganda is of the view that Article 66.2 which is mandatory, should be made operational.

7. Uganda would also like to propose a substantive review of Article 27.3(b) in order to ensure that life forms that are "naturally occurring" should not be patented. It is the view of the Uganda delegation that the patenting of life forms is tantamount to the transfer of community rights and property into private hands, with likely adverse effects on small rural farmers and on food security in general. Furthermore, it is the belief of the Uganda delegation that access to genetic resources should only be on mutually agreed terms. In addition, the *sui generis* system envisaged therein should be nationally determined, but consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

8. In respect of public health, Uganda strongly believes that the TRIPS Agreement should provide the widest flexibility to Member countries in order to address emergency public health crises and concerns such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, meningitis, tuberculosis, and other diseases that may commonly afflict peoples of the tropics.

Special and differential treatment

9. LDCs have continued to face tremendous difficulties in spite of the special and differential treatment (S&D) provisions as embodied in the Final Act. Uganda therefore wishes to call for the binding and full implementation of the provisions of S&D, including the adoption of new S&D measures to take into account implementation problems that may have been encountered by the LDCs over the last six years.

New issues and the new round

10. Uganda is of the view that the "new issues" should be subject to further study, and that if these are determined to be of a non-trade nature, they should not be included in the trade rules. It is our strong view that any future work in the WTO must contain a development component.

The positive agenda

11. Uganda recognizes that trade and technology transfer, trade and debt, and trade and finance all have a strong bearing on our development concerns, and therefore these should be included in future negotiations.
