

WORLD TRADE

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To enhance the WTO's image and confidence in the multilateral trading system among the public in our countries, we hope that the ACP-EU waiver request will be granted.

The capacity-building and technical assistance we expect from the WTO should be increased to offset the many inadequacies that prevent our countries from fully benefiting from the existing Agreements.

This is the place to welcome the expansion of the Pilot Scheme of the Integrated Framework, the implementation of which we genuinely desire, and it is a priority as far as we are concerned.

The initiatives on market access for products from the LDCs should be continued and improved. For example, the European "All But Arms" and the United States AGOA initiatives are particularly encouraging to the LDCs.

Nevertheless, significant bound market access for our agricultural products should be encouraged, along with the elimination of export subsidies, which distort the international agricultural products market and make the multilateral trading system inequitable.

As far as TRIPS is concerned, we would make an urgent appeal to all Members for them not to use the Agreement as an element of protectionism and not to prevent access to medicines for the sick in the developing countries.

Today, the HIV/AIDS problem has become a public health problem and concerns all countries throughout the world, but above all the poorest countries in Africa.

In this connection, we deem it urgent to find a balance between the public health issue and the TRIPS Agreement on the basis of Option 1 of the draft Ministerial Declaration.

My delegation considers it necessary to fully implement Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement on the transfer of technology, for, without production capacity, exports are not possible.

It is also necessary to implement mode 4 of trade in services, which prevents our populations from moving, and to facilitate market access related to that Agreement.

The special situation of the LDCs in Africa means that they are compelled to form subregional groups to promote trade among themselves and cope with the increasing marginalization that they now suffer.

For these reasons, subregional groups stand in need of all WTO's attention.

Lastly, my delegation endorses the statement by the LDC group, the APC countries and the African Group.
