



Can we really welcome the opportunity of a new round of negotiations without carrying out a review of the existing trade agreements, which means resolving implementation issues? On the

As to trade-related intellectual property rights, we deplore that the Agreement takes no account of the knowledge or the traditional ownership schemes of local communities. My delegation therefore supports protection of traditional knowledge that could be based on an appropriate system of access to the biological resources, knowledge and technologies of such communities. Better still, we firmly hope that the TRIPS Agreement will help resolve rather than aggravate the public health crises plaguing poor African countries, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Indeed, millions of people are dying every year as a result of these pandemics. Such loss of human life, which undermines the development aspirations of poor countries, poses a moral dilemma to humanity as a whole.

Lastly, the participation of sub-regional organizations, which play a key role in the development of Members, is also an issue of vital concern to us. The success achieved by the European Union is quite enlightening in this regard. We view the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services,