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proved to be a major obstacle which hinder the effective integration process of LDCs into the global system.

The TRIPS Agreement is of great concern to LDCs and we support the proposal for the Ministerial Conference to approve a special Ministerial Declaration with regard to the flexibility of the Agreement to ensure easy accessibility to medicine to combat communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria. To reflect the need for the Declaration to be of a wide scope the LDCs would prefer the title of the Ministerial Declaration to be Declaration on TRIPS and public health.

With regard to the proposed extension of transition period for ten years made with respect to pharmaceutical products in favour of LDCs, we think it would be more meaningful and effective if such extension is also made with respect to the implementation of the entire TRIPS Agreement. All the same, the LDCs propose that this partial exemption should in no way prejudice their right in future to request for transition extension of the implementation of the entire Agreement.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, LDC Group reiterates its position with regard to the Work Programme; and we pray for increasing financial and technical capacity of WTO to enable it to carry out the programme in the form of a Development Agenda for the immediate future.
