

# **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

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Statement by H.E. Mr Gerrit Ybema

A particular case of assistance concerns legal support in WTO dispute settlement. This cannot be provided by the WTO itself, because it must remain neutral. But what good are international rules, if only the rich have the means to secure access to justice?

Again, we mean it! the Netherlands, together with Colombia, took the initiative to set up the Advisory Centre for WTO Law. Last month it became operational. It provides developing countries and countries in transition with affordable legal assistance and training. I call upon all WTO Members to join and support the Centre!

Thirdly, the WTO must recognize the different situations of its Members, Therefore, special and differential treatment for developing countries must be an integral part of the negotiations we hope to launch here at Doha. For the same reason we need a fair solution to the implementation problems raised by developing countries.

Fourth, trade policy cannot be pursued in isolation. We need to interpret WTO rules in such a way, that they do not create an obstacle to effective policy-making in other areas that are important to all of us. For example: the protection of the environment, poverty reduction or public health. The Declaration we pursue here in Doha concerning the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and access to medicines is just one example of what is needed in this respect.

As to the social dimension of trade, I agree with Alec Erwin that this is a complex, but important issue and that we should not fear dialogue.

In the days to come, we will decide on success or failure, a decision with historic consequences. We cannot afford to fail.

We cannot afford a breakdown of the global economic dialogue.

We cannot afford a breakdown of the drive towards a truly multilateral trading system.

Above all, we cannot fail the many millions in developing countries who have not been able to really benefit from the growth of world trade.