



- We support the position of most developing countries that a comprehensive review of implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements should be carried out. We also believe that extensions of implementation periods for developing countries be considered. The texts of some agreements need to be modified to serve the interests of developing countries and to provide a transparent framework.

Since current negotiations on this Agreement involve increased commitments on Member States, it is important to take into account the level of development capacity of these countries. The liberalization of services in these countries should also be on a gradual basis.

We would like to emphasize the importance of speeding up negotiations on the accession of developing and least-developed countries to the WTO. We should not require these countries to make commitments more than those of existing Member States. It is equally important that technical assistance should be provided, and that the special and differential treatment to these countries should be retained. Therefore, Article XII (12) of the Agreement establishing the WTO should be adjusted and clarified to that extent. At the same time the culture and ethics of these countries should also be considered in accordance with Article XX (20) of the GATT 1994.

We very much regret that the request submitted by the Arab League to participate in this Conference as an observer, has not been accepted by the WTO. This request was supported by all Arab States which are Members of the WTO as well as those in the process of accession. It is our hope that this matter will be reconsidered.

We would also request the accreditation of the Arabic language as an official language in the WTO in addition to the three present official languages. We believe that this would contribute to a better understanding and awareness of the activities of this Organization and of the multilateral trading system by Arab countries.

Finally, before ending, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the People's Republic of China as well as the other countries that have recently become Members of the WTO.

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