

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

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We have already begun to use such an approach: our recent agreement on the issue of access to medicines is proof that we are able to work together and conclude agreements in pursuit of a common objective.

On the other central issues that we are to resolve this week, our work must be imbued with the same spirit. The contribution required of us will vary from one Member to another, but the task involved will be equally difficult and complex:

- The developed countries must make a greater effort than hitherto towards more even competitive conditions in agricultural markets. Subsidies – domestic and export alike – and tariffs will have to be eliminated or substantially reduced if the developing countries are to benefit from the comparative advantages which they have in agricultural production but which the current market distortions are preventing them from exploiting, to the point of jeopardizing the existence of the rural population of the developing world.
- Agriculture is undoubtedly the core issue of the Doha Round. The results achieved in the other areas, for better or for worse, will depend to a large extent on what is achieved in the agricultural negotiations. The initiative of the Round accordingly falls, first and foremost, on those with most to do in agriculture.
- Another area where the greater effort rests with the developed countries is special and differential treatment. We have made progress on this issue in recent months, but need to consolidate that progress this week.
- I began with the efforts required of the developed countries. But this does not mean that they are to be the sole contributors. On the contrary, many of the potential benefits this Round offers developing countries derive from the liberalization of trade flows, particularly of industrial products, between the developing countries themselves. Here too, the lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers will enable the comparative advantages of every Member of the WTO to be exploited.

In addition, the developed countries will obviously have to lower the tariffs – which

multilateral system. This must be the concern of all our countries, whether rich or poor, large or small.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate what I consider to be the most important principle that must govern the work we undertake this week: unqualified respect for the commitments that each one of us undertook in the Doha Declaration.

If we abide by that principle and address the task seriously and constructively, we will be in a position to achieve positive and tangible results this week.

The fate of the Doha Development Agenda is in our hands. We have the opportunity, which arises only once in a lifetime, to strengthen the system of trade rules and secure full participation by the developing countries in the benefits of international trade.

Let us seize this opportunity. Let us show, by actual deeds, that the solution to the problems of the poorest countries is to be found in liberalization and economic reform, and not in immobility and isolation. Let us make sure that the benefits of trade are brought within the reach of all, especially those that need them most. In a word, let us honour the promise we made in Doha.
