



right that everyone had the opportunity to speak. This has lifted our mood and given us greater confidence to work together on the issues before us.

7. Agriculture is the key item on the Agenda. The text of the Chairman of the General Council and all the other texts which have been tabled provide a basis for our deliberations on agriculture. If, even at this level of generality, we cannot reach broad agreement on a framework for modalities, there is no chance of our making progress subsequently in Geneva and meeting the 1 January 2005 end date.

8. All other issues turn on agriculture. The more general we are on agriculture, the more general we will have to be on NAMA and on the Singapore issues. The less ambitious we are on agriculture, the less ambitious we will have to be on NAMA and the Singapore issues.

9. On agriculture, I make a plea to the developed countries to rise above their domestic politics and be more generous to developing countries. The hundreds of billions of dollars of subsidies spent every year by the developed countries make a mockery of the global trading system which developing countries are constantly being asked to support. Of these, export subsidies do the most damage. If we cannot phase out all such trade distorting measures quickly, let us at least make this a clear target to aspire to. This indeed was what we agreed to in Doha and which justified our proclamation of the new round as a development round.

10. Above all, there must be a sense of hope in the multilateral system when we leave Cancún. When China and Chinese Taipei acceded to the WTO at our last ministerial meeting in Doha, we celebrated. Here in Cancún, we celebrate the accession of Cambodia and Nepal. The idealism which created the GATT in 1947 in response to the protectionism which led to the Second World War should continue to guide our actions in the WTO. However cumbersome its processes, the WTO still represents our best hope for a world in which all countries can participate democratically to formulate rules which bind us all equally.

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