

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

WT/MIN(03)/ST/111
13 September 2003

(03-4893)

We believe that the time has come to develop operational guidelines for the implementation of SDT provisions. Fundamentally, T&T supports a continuum rather than a "one size fits all" approach to the provision of SDT. We believe that differences in economic size; levels of development; production competences and resource endowment may be used in the stratification exercise.

Capacity-building, which is vital to developing countries, and, in essence, is at the heart of the concept of special and differential treatment, must go beyond mere technical assistance. It must include developmental and financial assistance targeted towards redressing our supply side capacity constraints and providing adjustment support.

Trade preferences also, are central to the concept of S&D. The crucial role that special long-standing trade preferences play in maintaining the viability and assisting in the development of Caribbean and other ACP States cannot be over-stated. Accordingly, it is imperative that this Ministerial recognizes trade preferences as legitimate instruments of development.

In the area of agriculture, we support the crafting of a new Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries, the concept of Special Products (SPs) and re-formation of the "*Green Box*". With respect to the issue of market access for non-agricultural products, Trinidad and Tobago is of the opinion that any indiscriminate lowering of the industrial tariffs of developing countries, through the non-inclusion of the principle of "Less than Full Reciprocity", could serve to dampen the industrialization and upgrading processes being undertaken in many Caribbean countries, possibly leading to de-industrialization in some instances.

With specific reference to the Singapore Issues, the Caribbean is of the view that negotiations should not be launched in these areas at this time. Our preference is to use our limited capacity to participate effectively in these negotiations to advance progress in areas that are germane to developing countries.

In concluding, I wish to reiterate Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to establishing a fair, equitable and rules-based multilateral trading system and reaffirm our willingness to work with other WTO Members in the reform process. We will do our part to make the system more amenable to fostering true growth and real development.
