

WORLD

The Doha Declaration 2001 also clearly identified ensuring trade growth and development of developing Members in particular least-developed countries (LDCs). However, negotiations following the Doha Conference failed to achieve substantive results in real sense in this regard. On the contrary, the trade protective practices constantly adopted by some developed countries have left developing Members very disappointed.

Therefore, whether we can have a good sense of the seriousness of the above-mentioned problems and whether we can come up with prompt solutions has a great bearing on the future and fortune of WTO.

We believe that all Members should have equal participation in the WTO negotiations with their interests fully respected and reflected. The overwhelming majority of WTO Members are developing ones. Therefore enabling developing Members to genuinely benefit from the negotiations essentially safeguards the success of the DDA. Disregarding such an important basic fact will only result in a more zigzag and lengthy DDA process.

As you all know, China, as a developing country, has proceeded from improving the living conditions of its 1.3 billion people and put forward the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way in the first two decades of this century. What I would like to underline is that China's GDP per capita is below US\$1,000 today and even 20 years later when China attains its goal, its GDP per capita will still be less than US\$3,009, equivalent to the current average per capita GDP of middle-income countries.

As a country with the largest farming population in the world, China still has 300 million rural people living under the poverty line and the annual per capita income of our farmers is below US\$300 on average.

Despite this, China undertook enormous commitments in its accession to the WTO. Just having tariff as an example, the overall average tariff rate of China will be cut from 15.3 per cent to around 10 per cent on the basis of applied rate during as short as 25 months from the beginning of its WTO Membership in December 2001 to January 2004. Such a speed and margin of tariff reduction are rarely seen in all negotiations to date, either on agricultural products or on non-agricultural products. Although its agriculture is in a much backward state, China eliminated all its export subsidies and bound its domestic support well below the level of other developing countries upon its accession to the WTO. All these are great contributions to the multilateral trading system and the new round of talks. We hold that the new Round should give full consideration to the huge pressure on the governments and industries of recently acceded Members including China, especially the huge pressure that their fragile industries are facing in restructuring. Important contributions made by recently acceded Members should be recognized and their particular concerns must be effectively addressed in the new Round. Only in this way can the WTO principles of equity and justness be reflected. We have noted that many other Members have expressed the same view in this aspect.

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