



We believe that the time has come to ensure that agriculture is fully integrated into the free trade rules.

Could anyone doubt that an ambitious result in this area would be a decisive contribution to development, an essential incentive to greater integration of developing countries in the international system, and a key element in efforts to alleviate poverty?

Thus, it is time to go beyond the national interests and sectoral egotism that have hindered these reforms and, at long last, to abolish domestic support and export subsidies - which have such a distorting effect on international trade and unfairly penalize developing countries - and, at the same time, to open up new and improved market access opportunities, especially to the markets of the most developed members of this Organization.

This reform is no longer the wish or demand of a more or less broad group of countries. It has grown into an international outcry, impossible to ignore or to sidestep any longer.

But nor do our countries want to limit their development aspirations to commodities forever. We also want to reap the rewards of our work force, labour and intelligence. Therefore, these negotiations must afford us the opportunity to foster our own industrial sectors, encourage manufacturing and enhance our capacity to develop the services sector.