

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

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- (c) the disparities and imbalances which place countries of the South at a disadvantage in comparison with powerful Northern nations;
- (d) the burden of an unpayable foreign debt;
- (e) the negative impact of the structural adjustment policies imposed by international financing institutions;
- (f) the obstacles to accessing international financing;
- (g) the failure of the industrialized world to allocate at least 0.7 per cent of its GDP to development aid;
- (h) the barriers which prevent developing countries from implementing their own growth and development plans.

4. Implementation of public policies

There is still an ideological bias in favour of the market over State action. Evidence is to the contrary, however, and the last two decades have witnessed accelerated liberalization whilst at the same time inequalities among countries have proliferated. Undisputed facts such as these call for the issue of appropriate State intervention to be considered anew and a role claimed for *public policies* as these are the conditions without which achieving the sought-after goal of equitable, democratic and environmentally sustainable developmTD0. Tw[4.)-2-0.0024 Tc0.0312 Tw{ as)-8.2(hv)-2-0.dom6coa D0. Tw[re0s-0.dll)-6.9

subsidized by countries of the North. These compete unfairly on our own domestic markets and their competitive advantage would be even greater if our tariffs were lowered or eliminated. Even if the powerful countries were to eliminate such subsidies and support for their products, the relationship would still be unequal. This is why we should not be asked to do the same thing and assume greater liberalization commitments.

9. Intellectual property rights or the right to health

There is still insistence on building an intellectual property protection regime that is highly prejudicial to poor countries. Such a regime should not become an obstacle to peoples' right to enjoy scientific and technical progress, access to medicines, education and good quality food. Venezuela recognizes the supremacy of international agreements on human rights, health, food security and biological diversity over and above intellectual property rights. We support the right of indigenous peoples and peasants to protect their ancestral knowledge and the right of farmers to protect their seeds.

10. Protecting the state's obligation to provide strategic services

Services that are essential to the population and services determined by the Constitution and the legislation should remain public. In this connection, it is necessary to ensure a proper margin of protection and exclude such services from attempts to liberalize them that prevent access by the population, particularly by the poorest sectors, to basic services such as health, education, justice, security, etc.

Venezuela remains faithful to the principles laid down in its Constitution and will retain the ownership, management and control of natural energy resources and related industries. These may not be the subject of any liberalization, deregulation or privatization process that restricts the sovereign right of the State and the Government to formulate and implement development policies and strategies best adapted to the national interest.

The Members of this Organization are once again facing the same dilemma they faced in Seattle in 1999 and Doha in 2001. Can we continue with the current international trading system, which benefits a few and harms many? Or can we with boldness, courage and vision face up to the changes needed to promote and develop international trade relations that serve equitable human development? Venezuela believes in an option that promotes fair trade among our countries and, consequently, is able to overcome poverty and unequal development.

This is the challenge we must take up before our people, this is the commitment we must fulfil!

We note with satisfaction that 21 countries have joined together to negotiate agricultural issues with the European Union and the United States, with dignity, determination and forcefulness, in an historic step forward in the quest for fairer trade.

Lastly, I should like to thank the Government and people of Mexico for their warm welcome and the courtesy shown to us.
