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maximize their benefits therefrom. Such technical assistance should be targeted and result-oriented and must be based on the regular annual budget of the WTO.

Nigeria reaffirms its firm commitments to the principles and objectives of the multilateral trading system. In that regard, we have continued with the liberalization of the economy, which tempo has increased since the installation of a democratically elected Government in 1999. All key sectors of the economy have been privatized or commercialized, and government has greatly enhanced transparency in its running of the economy. In an era of increasing globalization, we continue to see the WTO increase in stature and importance. We believe that the WTO has the capacity to adequately respond to the yearnings of its Members, in particular the developing and least-developed countries, and in enabling them to draw meaningful benefits from the system. Therefore, as government continues to streamline its trade and economic policies in line with WTO rules and obligations, it is the expectation of our people that they will begin to see tangible benefits accruing from our belonging to the WTO. The WTO should therefore work assiduously to deliver on the gains of liberalization and more so, the promises of the Doha Development Agenda. It is only in doing this that the WTO can justify its claim that trade is the engine of growth and development, including its role improving the living standards of our people.

In conclusion, it is the view of my delegation that this Session will be useful in substantively addressing the issues on the agenda of the multilateral trading system, especially those of concern and specific interest to developing countries in order to truly place development at the heart of the Doha work programme. In addition, in order to complement the work being carried out in the WTO, we also call for enhanced coherence in the global economic policy-making to address issues like the cancellation of debt and the eradication of diseases and poverty, so as to improve the living conditions of poor people and make life more meaningful for all.
