

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(03)/ST/73
12 September 2003

(03-4859)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fifth Session
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

Original: English

BARBADOS

Statement by the Honourable Billie A. Miller
Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Almost two years ago, we the Trade Ministers met at Doha and agreed upon the Doha Development Agenda. That agenda not only embraced a broad and balanced Work Programme, but also incorporated an expanded negotiating agenda and other important decisions and activities, which we considered necessary to addressing the challenges confronting the multilateral trading system.

We have not only failed to meet the many deadlines of the Programme, but have also lost the very development dimension of the agenda. Barbados contends that our failure to restore this development dimension to our negotiations could seriously undermine our efforts at establishing a multilateral trading system that is fair, balanced and that provides opportunities and benefits for all countries, developed and developing alike.

We were assured that trade liberalization under the aegis of the World Trade Organization would have provided concrete benefits to all countries, especially the developing onng son

fostering development in the beneficiary countries and facilitating their smooth integration into the global economy. Failure to recognize special and differential treatment in its true context is to ignore the plight and fundamental constraints facing our countries, and to deny us the right to participate meaningfully in the new world economy that we are seeking to fashion.

There is a group o