

WTO 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference  
Plenary Session, "Overview of WTO activities"

Madam Chair, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies  
and Gentlemen,

Norway - my country - is a living example of  
how GATT and the WTO have been key guarantors  
of economic growth, development and  
prosperity.

Our challenge today is to make that  
opportunity and those benefits of trade  
available to all.

Our task as Governments is to seize the  
agenda and make the multilateral trading  
system contribute to decent work, welfare,  
sustainable development and human progress.  
Not for the few but for all.

Four years after the near success of Hong  
Kong, let us remind ourselves: Our first  
priority remains to conclude the Doha  
Development Agenda. We are on overtime. We  
have to succeed in 2010.

We know what it will take: Political  
leadership and commitment, willingness to



implementation of duty and quota-free market access for LDCs, preference erosion, cotton, TRIPS CBD, transfer of technology, technical assistance and capacity building.

Considerable progress has been achieved. We must avoid selective reopening of stabilised areas which would lead to an unravelling of the total package.

But as we all know, a number of important issues must be solved before we can claim victory.

issues that should be dealt with in succeeding rounds:

One is the combined effects of climate change and the food crisis, underlining the importance of food security.

We now prepare for Copenhagen. We must see to it that the multilateral trading system and agreements on climate change remain mutually supportive. Only then will international trade policy and liberalisation of trade in climate-related goods and services be part of the solution to this global challenge.

Also looking ahead, we need to address the social dimension and put decent work on our agenda. Norway supports the ideas, backed by labour unions, to promote coherence between what is done in the WTO and what is done at the ILO. Norway is prepared to approach these issues in the transparent, patient and open-minded way that characterises the work of the WTO.

But first - and as our priority, we need to urgently conclude the DDA.

Thank you, Madam Chair.