

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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less affected than other emerging economies from the onset of the crisis that has gripped many others over the recent months. Although we are not completely untouched, we have continued to assess and to learn from the financial crisis. The effectiveness of the progressive liberalization policies of my Government is reaffirmed by the current crisis.

We want to urge Members that this is neither a time for protectionist policies nor the suspension or undue delays in the reform process. In fact, it has become even more crucial to maintain the momentum of trade liberalization process that the global trading community has taken half a century to realize. The crisis will be our learning tool, to review our approach and to make the necessary changes as we cross into the next millennium. On this note, we would like to see greater coordination and integration between the relevant agencies in delivering solutions to the crisis. This may begin with closer coordination between the IMF and the WTO, to lay down a feasible structure for economies to work together.

WTO Accession

The liberalization policy pursued by our Government is also reflective in our bid for WTO membership. More than eight years have passed since our submission of BT1 0 0 1 138.96 105.3396.48 105.84 Tr

accession process, for their support and cooperation.

We have made very substantial progress in the bilateral market access negotiations; only two Members remain for further consultations and the outstanding issues are very limited. Our goal is to complete all bilateral negotiations in the near future. To achieve this, we will

contain elements for review, future