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**Statement by Mr. Wang Shichun, Head of the Chinese Delegation,  
at WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade  
Geneva, 20 November 2007**

Mr. Chair, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here for the very first WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to this review and fully supports the Aid for Trade initiative.

Trade is the engine of development. Nonetheless, to ensure that developing members and especially the least developed members to participate fully and benefit from the economic globalization as well as trade liberalization and eventually realize development goals, they will need support in the field of infrastructure development, trade related capacity building through aid for trade initiative. In this regard, aid for trade is a necessary compliment to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round and a duty bound commitment of the international communities. WTO, as the only international organization mandated to maintain sustainable and stable development of the world trade, will play a unique and an indispensable role for this historical task.

Mr. Chair,

As a large developing country, China fully appreciates the difficulties confronting the other developing countries in their pursuit of

liveliness of people and reduce the North-South divide. China also provides assistance, to the best of its ability, to the least developed ones, which is an important part of South-South cooperation.

In retrospect of its experience in the past, China's aid for trade programmes have a few unique features:

As a general principle, China pursues a foreign aid policy that stresses equality between and mutual benefit. It respects the aspirations of the recipient countries and designs its aid programmes in close consultations with host governments. More importantly, action speaks louder than words, therefore it

promotion, infrastructure development and capacity building. Specific interventions are as follows:

First, China opens its market for recipient countries. So far, China has granted tariff exemption treatment to majority export products from 41 least developed countries, taking up 93% of the

mechanism under the WTO framework.

Mr. Chair,

China is still a developing country with GDP *per capita* falling behind more than 100 countries. Nevertheless, as our economy grows, China will be able to gradually increase the level of its foreign assistance, which includes, among many others, regional cooperation and public and private sector cooperation. **In** this connection, we believe that more targeted aid for trade activities will be further promoted accordingly.

Mr. Chair,

The global review of aid for trade is a concrete step forward. And we hope to continue our efforts to promote better communication between donors and recipients. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION  
ANNEX 1  
1