

## ***WTO-Ministerial Conference - A Developmental Perspective***

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## ***Development in Doha Work Programme***

- Three benchmarks
  - Enhanced Market Access
  - Balanced Rules
  - Capacity Building Programmes
- Experience @ WTO – Cautionary Tale

## ***Enhanced Market Access***

- In addition to current market access
- Size of total market access should increase
- New market access is not “repackaging” of current opportunities
- Stable and predictable

## ***Enhanced Market Access (cont...)***

- Market access is real, i.e.:
  - Of interest to developing countries
  - Includes elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers
  - Matches supply capacity
- Based on concept of Non-Reciprocity
- Access to domestic and regional markets is not eroded

## ***Balanced Rules***

- Increase policy space
- No additional constraints on domestic policy making
- Flexibility is provided to African countries
- New rules are flexible & meaningful
  - Have legal certainty especially S&DT
  - Usable

## ***Balanced Rules (cont...)***

- Policy flexibilities
  - Linked to levels of development
  - NOT arbitrary transition periods

## **Capacity Building**

- . Predictable, secure and long term
- . Adequate and NOT reshuffling of existing aid flows
- . Needs based and demand driven
- . Relevant
  - Human
  - Technical
  - Institutional
  - Financial

## **More Generally...**

- . Doha Work Programme
  - Not envisage any trade off between & amongst three elements development
  - Progress on each of the three
  - Transparent and participatory process

## **More Specifically...**

- . Implementation and S&DT Issues
  - Need holistic solution
  - Settling selected elements not sufficient

## **Agriculture**

- . Genuine solution to end dumping
- . Allow defense of:
  - Food sovereignty
  - Rural development
  - Farmers livelihoods
- . Requires
  - Eliminate direct/indirect subsidies no later than 2010
  - Substantially reducing allowed (bound) & applied (actual) subsidies that are factually trade distorting

## **Agriculture (cont.../)**

- . Required
  - Prevent box shifting
  - Green box: ensure payments genuinely non-trade distorting
  - Expanding criteria for use of Green Box subsidies
  - Not impose further liberalisation of tariffs on developing countries
  - Establish
    - . Special Safeguard Mechanism
    - . Self Selection of Special Products
  - Export and domestic subsidies on cotton be eliminated and compensation fund established

## **NAMA**

- . July Framework erodes development
- . Development here requires that:
  - Retention of flexibilities to decide pace and sectors for liberalisation
  - Scope of binding and tariff levels for unbound
  - Not be on a line by line basis
  - Reduction to be on an average basis
  - More and improved flexibilities in terms of exemptions

## **Services**

- . Objectives should be to
  - Strengthen domestic service capacity
  - Increase participation
  - Preserve current negotiations flexibilities
    - . Positive approach
    - . Bilateral request – offer
    - . Sectoral & Plurilateral approaches avoided
  - Right to regulate service sector maintained esp for developmental objectives
  - Priority given to Emergency Safeguard Mechanism
  - Significant improvement in offers of developed countries in areas of interest to African countries

## **TRIPs**

- . Permanent solution on supply of medicines for countries with insufficient or no local production capacity
- . Fraud by WTO Secretariat addressed head on!
- . Flexibility to use Article 30
- . Life forms and Biodiversity
  - Africa Group Proposals to ammend article 27.3.b
  - Disclosure of source or origin
  - Benefit sharing arrangements
- . Technology transfer should mandatory

## **Least Developed Countries (LDC's)**

- . Exempt from
  - Tariff reductions in Agriculture & NAMA
  - No offers in Services
  - S&DT Proposals to be resolved
  - Market access demands be adopted
    - . i.e. Bound duty and quota free access

## **Financial and Technical Assistance**

- . Measures to increase supply capacity
- . Present system and its quality inadequate
- . Quantity and quality of assistance must be improved
- . Meet needs of developing countries

## **Conclusion**

- . Dilatory, unconstructive and obstructive developed country tactics should be reason for recalibration of development expectations downward
- . More demands if developed countries do not relent
- . The DWP is a minimum agenda
- . Threat of US withdrawal always real.... ICC & CAFTA