



The Johannesburg Statement on the Doha Development Agenda

Almost a decade since the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) was launched the negotiations have yet to yield an outcome that contributes meaningfully to the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of economic development. The further continuation of this situation arrests the necessary process of reforming international trade rules to improve the transparency and democratic accountability of decision-making and promote sustainable growth within the poorest countries.

There are a number of issues that pose significant threats to the livelihoods within the poorest countries which need to be treated with the greatest seriousness. Among these, ensuring food security, promoting sustainable forms of development, and putting in place safeguards that enable vulnerabilities to external shocks to be mitigated, are among the most pressing. Moreover, the length of time that the negotiations have taken threatens to render aspects of the agenda obsolete.

A successful conclusion requires a willingness, commitment and seriousness from all World Trade Organization (WTO) Members as well as determined yet flexible leadership from developed, developing and least-developed members alike. It also requires active engagement with national and global business and civil society communities to encourage support for the negotiations.

To meet its development objectives and to make a substantial contribution to poverty reduction and the enhancement of human wellbeing, a concerted effort is required to bring the DDA to an early and satisfactory conclusion. However, conclusion of the round for the sake of urgency alone is not acceptable, and the objective of improving the role played by the multilateral trade system in the achievement of development must be maintained. To this end, WTO Members should remain faithful to the DDA's original mandate, redouble their efforts to place development at the heart of the negotiations, and bear in mind that the business of enhancing the contribution of trade to the development of the poorest and most vulnerable will not halt with the conclusion of a development-centred outcome.

The pursuit of agreement in the following areas will go a considerable way towards ensuring that an equitable and opportune outcome of the negotiations is realised, and these objectives ought to be secured as a matter of urgency. As such, we encourage WTO Members to:

I. An “Early Harvest” for LDCs

1. Agree and implement prior to the conclusion of the DDA **duty-free and quota-free access** into the markets of all developed WTO members, and those developing members in a position to do so, for all products originating from least-developed countries.
2. Press for the establishment of an **annual reporting mechanism** on the implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access. This should be seen as going beyond the annual reporting mechanism currently in operation in the Committee on Trade and Development through its pursuit of the implementation of legally binding commitments. The WTO Secretariat should oversee this mechanism and should be provided with the necessary resources to fulfil this role comprehensively.
3. Simplify and liberalise **rules of origin** to reduce the bureaucratic burden on least-developed countries and to allow their firms to import inputs from the most efficient suppliers, thereby enhancing their competitiveness while also enabling them to make better use of duty-free and quota-free access.
4. Fast-track the elimination of **export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support** in the developed countries on agricultural products that are of export interest to least-developed countries, particularly in the areas of sugar, groundnuts, dairy products and fish. In particular, the immediate elimination of export subsidies and domestic support that have been a major cause of the decimation of cotton farmers and a threat to livelihoods in the “cotton four” countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
5. Secure substantial improvements in the offers from developed members, and developing countries in a position to do so, on market access to services exports from least-developed countries through **Mode 4** of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). This should include providing better access for the temporary movement of workers and for outsourcing in various areas including health, education and call centres from these economies.
6. Reform and expedite the **accession** process so that acceding countries are not required to undertake commitments beyond those that are currently agreed to by existing WTO members at the same level of development. Commitments by acceding developing and least-developed countries and small and vulnerable economies (SVEs) should also be consistent with their development needs and capacities.

II. Capacity Building and Aid for Trade

7. Provide relief for least-developed countries and SVEs for any **erosion of preferences** resulting from the conclusion of the DDA through the provision of effective financial and technical co-operation by the developed countries. Any adjustments made for the loss of preferences should be designed to encourage sustainable diversification and to cushion any negative effects of the reform process accompanied by a realistic transition timeframe.
8. Pursue the early implementation and full utilisation of the technical assistance and capacity building programmes envisaged under the proposed **Trade Facilitation Agreement**.
9. Secure additional, substantial and predictable **Aid for Trade**, to enable developing countries to avail themselves of the opportunities that trade opening provides as well as to increase investment in training that enhances the capacity of developing countries to participate in negotiations. This aid should be unconditional and not linked to negotiations for removing trade barriers and other trade distortions. The WTO should be mandated to monitor commitments on Aid for Trade and to build this into the Aid for Trade Global Review Process starting with the July 2011 meeting.

III. Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA), Policy Space and Balanced Rules

10. Agree that all developing country commitments should be commensurate with their level of development; that is, commitments should be made on the basis of **less than full reciprocity**. Special and differential treatment should remain a guiding principle in the negotiations.
11. Recognise the rights of developing countries to employ **industrial policies** to promote new industries including the use of procurement preferences and financial market interventions.
12. Establish a mechanism providing SVEs with the **flexibility** not to implement a specific discipline, if such non-implementation is properly justified for development interests. This should be understood as operationalising the principle of special and differential treatment, and targeted capacity building should be utilised to assist the country to meet the implementation of the remaining obligations. The Monitoring Mechanism currently being negotiated in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development Special Session could be used for such a purpose.
13. Pursue a much more ambitious programme to address **non-tariff barriers** (including technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and standards) faced by developing and least-developed countries in developed country markets.
14. Ensure that the outcome of the NAMA negotiations creates significant new market access to products of interest to developing countries and addresses the issue of **tariff escalation** in developed countries, enabling the beneficiation and processing of their raw materials.

IV. Intellectual Property Rights

15. Thoroughly reform the **Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights** (TRIPs) to: (i) make the TRIPs and Public Health amendment more effective, enabling developing countries to use these flexibilities to provide more affordable medicines for public health; and (ii) include a mandatory disclosure of origin requirement for patents to prevent biopiracy of developing country genetic resources and traditional knowledge, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

V. Agriculture and Food Security

16. Ensure that the outcome of the Doha Round creates fundamental reforms in developed country agriculture by making real and effective cuts in domestic support programmes. **Export subsidies** in developed countries should be eliminated at the end of 2013 as agreed at the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.
17. With due regard to the export interests of developing countries, adequate flexibilities should be provided for the Special Products of developing countries and an appropriate **Special Safeguard Mechanism** created to address the rural development, food security and livelihood concerns of developing countries.