

**STATEMENT MADE BY THE LDC COORDINATOR AT THE COUNCIL FOR
TRADE IN SERVICES IN SPECIAL SESSION HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of the LDC Group, I take this opportunity to thank you for placing on today's agenda the implementation of modalities for the special treatment of LDCs in trade in services.

From the outset, I wish to request that statement made on behalf of the LDCs during the informal meeting held on 26 January be reflected in the records of this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

In responding to some of the questions and points of clarifications raised by Members during the informal meeting held 26 January, I wish to make the following preliminary remarks:

First and foremost, it is important for the Members to consider this request with a backdrop of the special circumstances and difficulties that LDCs have and continue to experience in gaining meaningful benefits from global trade in general and trade in services in particular, with real impact on job creation and poverty reduction.

Secondly, the proposed request for a waiver is being presented at great concession from the original position that the Group tabled before this House in March 2006 to have a permanent solution applicable on a mandatory basis.

What we are seeking here is merely a simple instrument that will facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for Members to grant preferential market

access to LDCs. This being a waiver, does not create obligations. Members will retain their full discretion as to whether or not they wish to provide preferential treatment and if any decides so, it will be up to that Member to determine the form in which such treatment would be provided. Therefore, there is no reason for controlling the manner in which preferences are to be granted when there is no obligation to grant preferences. It is for this reason that the request made by the Group keeps the scope broad to allow those Members that may decide so, to choose the form in which such preferences would be granted.

Thirdly, this is a temporary arrangement, merely aimed at assisting LDCs increase their participation in global trade, whose implementation will be monitored by every Member.

Last but not least, it is worth stressing that LDCs collectively, account for less than half a percentage point of global trade in commercial services, a figure so small to have real impact on global markets for commercial services.

It is in light of the above submission that I wish to call upon Members to consider positively the request made by the LDC to create an enabling environment for granting preferences in the area of trade in services.

I thank you.