

## **Statement Made by the Coordinator on Behalf of the LDC Group at the General Council Regarding the Upcoming LDC Accession Dialogue**

**Mr. Chairman,**

On the eve of the Dialogue on LDCs accession to WTO, to be held tomorrow the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, I would like to take this opportunity to echo LDC Group support to acceding LDCs. More importantly, we hope that the dialogue would allow all WTO Members to better understand and appreciate the particular situation of acceding LDCs with a view to expedite the conclusion of the accession process for LDCs that are at an advanced stage of accession.

A case in point, I wish to state that Samoa, Vanuatu and Yemen have already made major strides to accommodate requests by their respective negotiating partners. They have exhibited their willingness and readiness to conclude the accession process by the end of this year. What is required is for Members to accelerate the process of concluding these accessions, both on bilateral and multilateral tracks.

The LDC Group is appealing to members that have made some burdensome requests to reconsider their positions and make their submissions in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the General Council Decision on the Guidelines for LDCs Accession of 10th December 2002. This decision required members to, among other issues, exercise restraint when seeking Market Access concessions and commitments from acceding LDCs.

The LDC Group believes that the full and faithful implementation of these Guidelines will result in the speedy and successful conclusion of the process of accession for all remaining LDCs. It is the Group's expectation that the three countries, and indeed other acceding LDCs, will be treated fairly in line with Multilateral Agreements, Ministerial Decisions, and other relevant WTO legal instruments pertaining to LDCs. We look forward to welcoming Yemen, Samoa and Vanuatu as new members of the WTO by the end of 2010 and the remaining LDCs in the nearest possible future.

**I thank you.**