

**Remarks made by H. E. Mr Darlington Mwape , Ambassador/Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations Offices in
Geneva on 20 January 2010
During the LDC Consultative Meeting**

As we begin the year, I wish to highlight a few issues on the process and substance of our group's engagement in the negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda.

With regard to process, I wish to highlight the following:

- First and foremost, I would like to point out the importance of enhancing participation at level of Ambassadors in the negotiating sessions and the various consultative frameworks in view of the stage that we have reached in the negotiations. In the next two weeks, we could consider calling for an Ambassadors only meeting so that we can map out the way forward on our engagement in the negotiations.

- It will be important for us to utilize the good service of focal points in advancing the group's positions during formal/informal /green room meetings. It will therefore important for focal points to keep a systematic record of proceedings for areas which each one of them is overseeing so that the group maintains an institutional memory. Each focal point will be expected to provide a written summary of proceedings of the meetings they attend and maintain an effective feedback mechanism on issues that require action/follow up. This meeting should task our experts to consolidate the list of focal points to facilitate a meeting with myself and the focal points some time next week. The consolidate list should also have a core group of countries under each focal area who will be expected to work with the focal point;

- We could consider undertaking consultations with the Chairs of various negotiating groups on issues of interest to the LDC group in order to assess where we are and how we can influence the way forward on issues of interest to the group. To start with, a consultative meeting has been scheduled for 26 January 2010 to discuss the draft services waiver in preparation for the services cluster meetings scheduled for February. Will therefore rely on the good services of focal points to prepare notes to guide this process;
- In my capacity as coordinator I had consultations with My Minister of Trade last week in Lusaka on our engagement in the negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda and how we can keep the visibility of the group. The Honorable Minister has agreed to attend the General Council meeting scheduled for 22 -23 February 2010. The group could consider using this opportunity to consult with the Minister on a number of issues of interest.
- It will be important for the group to come up with a work plan to guide our engagement on substance. Assistance has been sought from the TradeMark Southern Africa programme to assist in consolidating the workplan. Preliminary notes have been prepared, which will be circulated to facilitate identification of areas which require priority attention. We will need to task our experts to come up with a zero draft, which can be used as a basis for consolidating the group's workplan.
- It will also be important for us to launch the website so that Capital based officials are fully kept informed. I therefore intend to work towards the launch of the LDC website.

- The various chairs have outlined their workplans for the coming two to three months. Our engagement in this process can only be effective if we undertake the technical analysis, provide the necessary guidance and refine our positions prior to each negotiating session whether formal or informal. The office of the coordinator will therefore rely on your good offices to identify areas that will require technical assistance in refining the group's position as negotiations unfold.

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- Last but not least, we should consider taking up the slates for various WTO committees as a way of increasing visibility of the LDCs at the WTO. Where countries have come up with candidate, we need to support each other.