

**STATEMENT MADE BY ZAMBIA ON BEHALF OF THE LDC  
GROUP  
AT THE G90 MEETING  
23 MARCH 2010**

**Mr Chairman,**

The Adoption of the Doha Development Agenda by our Ministers in November 2001 marked an important milestone in the history of the WTO. The shared vision of 'development' as the central theme gave an assurance to our constituencies that global trade rules were not just about seeking markets and placing onerous obligations on the weak and vulnerable economies, but as an important avenue for addressing some of the most pressing and challenging development objectives through balanced rules. It is on the basis of this understanding that we have continued to engage despite the slow progress made in addressing the major impediments to the conclusion of the Round.

For us, as has been stated in various fora, there is no alternative to the conclusion of the Round. There is no doubt that the multilateral trading system remains critical to maintaining global stability and resilience as witnessed over the past few years when the global economy was plunged in a series of crises. We cannot afford to let the negotiating process get worse.

This stocktaking is therefore, a useful exercise for us to begin thinking of strategic engagement at both the political and technical level in order to close the gaps and conclude the round in the nearest possible future. We note the intensification of work in all areas of negotiations since January 2010 following

the mandate given by our Ministers, however gaps still remain and these can only be narrowed if all partners are willing to engage fully by outlining in clear terms what we can achieve in the few days we are here, what should be left for the technicians to finalize and when to bring in the political level in the discussions. The conditioning of negotiations between and across negotiating pillars has made the complex situation worse. Members should therefore desist from making linkages.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Notwithstanding progress made in certain areas so far, I wish to stress that further delay in the conclusion of this round is painful denial of any development benefits to LDCs. It is for this reason that we continue to seek from the Members an Early Harvest in areas of interest to LDCs where consensus has been reached including the following:

**DFQF**

Mr. Chairman, the LDC Group wishes to appreciate progress made by India, Brazil and Korea in this area. DFQF is key Market Access with tangible results in enhancing LDC trade. The LDC Group continues to anticipate even further progress, in line with the mandate given for developed countries and developing countries in a position to grant DFQF to products from all LDCs. Key issues to be addressed by Members in this area include timelines for providing information on product coverage and the definition of monitoring procedures.

**Rules of Origin**

The LDC Group Mr Chairman, has continued to press upon the Membership to implement the commitment to make simple and transparent preferential rules of

origin, in line with the Hong Kong Ministerial Decision. Empirical research belabours the prohibitions to preferential market access caused by Rules of Origin currently implemented by many of our trading partners. We therefore wish to re-emphasise the need for the current process to expedite work in this area.

## **COTTON**

Mr Chairman, Cotton remains a critical commodity of interest to many LDC economies. Lack of progress in this area therefore compromises the very spirit of the DDA. Sadly, progress in this issue is significantly lacking and the matter has been scarce on the Ag agenda. In this regard the LDC Group continues to seek an ambitious, expeditious and specific outcome encompassing the elimination of trade-distorting domestic support measures and export subsidies, DFQF market access for cotton and cotton by-products originating from the LDCs; a "safety net" mechanism for cotton producing LDCs in the face of negative effects of external shocks. It must be recognised that following the recent global economic crisis, Cotton dependent LDCs experience even worse injury in addition to trade distorting domestic support measures maintained by some member countries.

## **LDC SERVICES WAIVER**

Mr Chairman, allow me to thank the Norwegian delegation once again for their leadership in assisting the LDC Group with regards to discussions on the Modalities for a Waiver for LDCs under Trade in Services. The discussions have now been multilateralised with extensive consultations undertaken in the recent past in order to better understand the contents of the draft waiver. We now have

a better sense of where the major gaps are and where language could be changed without altering the basic objective of creating an enabling environment to facilitate the growth of Services trade in LDCs, which currently stands at a minuscule 0.44%.

This Waiver Mr. Chairman would provide LDCs with a much needed opportunity to enhance participation in global trade in services, to diversify their trade and reduce commodity dependence, as well as integrate the group into the global trade revolution. Hence our keen interest in seeking an early harvest.

Last but not least, the LDC group wish to emphasize the importance of complementing the outcome of the round with appropriate technical assistance and capacity building support in order to reap tangible benefits from the multilateral trading system.

PAGE

PAGE 3