

**Statement Delivered by Zambia, Coordinator of the LDC Group, during the
TNC Meeting held on 26 March 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

I am taking the floor to speak on behalf of the LDC Group.

First and foremost, I wish to thank the Director General for holding this wrap up TNC session, following a week-long informal consultation on key issues in the negotiations under the Doha Development Round.

I wish to state that the LDC group appreciates the efforts made by the respective chairpersons of negotiating groups in identifying the 'perceived gaps' in the negotiations.

LDC Group has assessed the contents of these reports and the overall process of engagement during this stock-taking exercise and wishes to highlight the following:

The reports have given some level of clarity with regard to where progress has been made since 2008 and where the major gaps are. These reports have been a useful basis for our engagement during the informal consultations and will continue to serve as an important reference point for our future work.

It has emerged from the stock-taking exercise that members are eager to engage with a view to concluding the round sooner than later.

For the LDC Group, there cannot not be any better solution than concluding the Round early. Any further delay to concluding the Round is a denial of development to the most vulnerable and weak members of the WTO. As highlighted in our previous interventions, the LDCs have had and continue to have high expectations in concluding this Round in view of its link to development. We are however disappointed that the conclusion of the round has been held hostage because of lack of movement on issues that concern developed and some developing country partners. The LDCs have therefore found themselves in an awkward situation of holding on to decision, which

should at this time be in an advanced stage of implementation.

Mr. Chairman, it is not LDCs delaying the conclusion of this round. It is not LDCs which are causing the stalling of negotiations. However, it is the LDCs that suffer the greatest negative economic impact with the delayed conclusion. Hence the conclusion of this round should not be delayed any further

It is for this reason that we are asking members to agree to an early harvest. With regards to an early harvest there are issues such as DFQF where there is a de facto acceptance and Members have already implemented this in the form of various GSP schemes. All that is needed in this case is a decision formalizing an early harvest.

With regards to cotton, our Ministers have already made a decision regarding this matter. Par 11 of the Ministerial Declaration Adopted in Hong Kong on 18 December 2005 drew commitment of Members to ensure that the issue of cotton be addressed **ambitiously**, **expeditiously** and **specifically**, within the Agriculture negotiations in relation to ALL trade-distorting policies affecting the sector in market access, domestic support and export competition. Furthermore, it was committed that:-

All forms of export subsidies for cotton will be eliminated by developed countries in 2006;

... developed countries will give DFQF for cotton for cotton exports from LDCs....., and

....trade distorting domestic subsidies for cotton production is reduced more ambitiously.....We commit ourselves to reach such an outcome.....

Mr. Chairman, movement is absolutely lacking in the trade aspects of the cotton mandate and parties have tied the solution to the conclusion of the round. Needless to say, this compounds the negative impact of any delays in the conclusion of the Doha Round for LDCs whose economies are dependent on cotton. It is for this reason that the LDC Ministerial Declaration of October 2009 asks for an early harvest on this issue.

As we begin to focus on the narrowing of gaps that have been identified from

the stock-taking exercise, it is cardinal that there is clarity of the way forward. However, this is not to say that we should expend our energies towards process but rather substance. It is only by addressing issues of substance that we shall gain meaningful progress.

Last but not least, the LDC Group wish to reiterate the need for a timely and successful conclusion of the round in order to ensure that the multilateral system not only maintains its credibility but to remain relevant to the global economy in view of the emerging global challenges, whose solution lies in the rules based multilateral trading system.

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