

**Statement delivered by Zambia, Coordinator of the LDC Group
during the TNC Meeting held on 22 March 2010**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the LDCs Group, I thank you for convening this important session of the TNC, which gives members an added opportunity to revisit the state of play of the Round, but even more important, to identify the gaps in the negotiations with a view to focusing and re-invigorating the negotiations in order to bring the conclusion of the Round to fruition.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the chairpersons of various negotiating groups for giving their perspective on where major gaps lie in the negotiations under the DDA. The LDC Group takes note of the reports and wishes to state that they form useful basis for continued engagement over the next few days and the period post- stocking.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group is hopeful that Members shall emerge from this process more focused and ready to engage in a most candid manner. As we stated during the last General Council, this should not be business as usual. Members should be willing to show real flexibility.

The LDC priorities are well known to the Members. Our Ministers have reiterated them both in Dar-es-Salaam and also during their meeting prior to the 7th Ministerial. We expect that any work plan emanating from this stock taking exercise would address those issues.”

While appreciating the objectives of the stock taking exercise, it is important that this process is transparent and inclusive. This calls for clarity on the structure and content of the meetings planned during the week. Indeed, this is the only way in which Members can fully express themselves on what they not only perceive to be the gaps but on possible solutions thereof.

At the end of this week, we expect clarity on issues of substance. However, those issues are likely to be a mix of technical and political issues. While Senior Officials may engage on technical issues post stock taking, political issues shall remain unattended to. In this regard, our Group **is of the opinion** that **perhaps** this stock-taking exercise be followed up by some engagement at the political level.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not least, I wish to state that the LDC Group will continue to engage positively and constructively in order to ensure that the conclusion of the Round is not delayed any further so that we can begin to reap the development benefits of the Round.

