

**INTERVENTION MADE BY THE COORDINATOR ON BEHALF OF THE
LDC GROUP
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON TRADE
FACILITATION**

20 JANUARY 2010

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the LDC group, I wish to join delegations that have spoken before me in thanking you for organizing this planning meeting on the next steps forward in advancing the work of this negotiating group.

The LDC group [welcomes the proposals made to] [would like to proposal that we]:

- Have a first reading of the consolidated text during the February cluster meeting;
- Focus initial discussions on areas that are less contentious, where there is some sense of convergence in positions on several issues under discussion. Article X could be a starting point.
- To have dedicated discussions on the chapter relating to special and differential treatment during the February cluster
- Schedule informal open ended meetings based on a clear work plan issue by issue in order to allow for focused discussions during the March cluster. This work plan should be circulated well in advance of the meetings to facilitate small delegations to invite the relevant institutions to attend the cluster meetings.
- Separate discussions of a legal nature from practices/principles.

Last but not least, the LDC group would like to state that the completion of negotiations on Trade Facilitation should be linked to other areas of negotiations under the DDA.

Thank you.