

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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ACP GROUP PROPOSED TEXT ON DEVELOPMENT SPECIFIC ISSUES

Communication from Mauritius

The following communication, dated 16 December 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mauritius on behalf of the ACP Group.

1. Aid for Trade

It is the view of this group that on the issue of Aid for Trade as captured in paragraph 51, the following issues shall be added:

- New financial assistance shall be made available under Aid for Trade to fully meet the developmental objectives especially to create and enhance the productive capacity, *inter alia* through Transfer of Technology, SPS, TBT, Trade Facilitation, Institutional Capacity, human resources development and appropriate policy space in order to achieve the full integration of these countries into the multilateral trading system.
- Financial assistance shall be made available in grant form and there shall be no conditionality attached.
- The task force shall be fully representative of members from the developing countries and LDCs. This Task Force shall provide appropriate recommendations to the General Council by April 2006.
- In view of the above, the revised paragraph 51 will read as follows:

"We welcome the discussions of Finance and Development Ministers in various fora, including the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF, that have taken place this year on expanding Aid for Trade. Aid for Trade shall aim to help developing countries and LDCs to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from WTO Agreements and more broadly to expand their trade. Aid for Trade cannot become a substitute for the development benefits that will result from a successful conclusion to the DDA, particularly on market access. However, it can be a valuable complement to the DDA. New financial assistance shall be made available under Aid for Trade to fully meet the developmental objectives especially to create and enhance the productive capacity *inter alia* through Transfer of Technology, SPS, TBT, Trade Facilitation, institutional capacity, human resources development and appropriate

policy space in order to achieve their full integration into the multilateral trading system. Financial assistance shall be made available in grant form and there shall be no conditionality attached.

51bis. We invite the Director-General to create a Task Force that shall provide recommendations on how to operationalize Aid for Trade. We invite the Director-General to consult with Members as well as with IMF, World Bank, the regional development banks and other relevant international organisations with a view to reporting to the General Council on appropriate mechanisms to secure the necessary financial resources for Aid for Trade on grant basis. The Aid for Trade mechanism shall enter into force no later than December 2006."

2. Special and Differential Treatment

ACP members submit that paragraph 31 and 32 of the Draft Ministerial Text be replaced by the following:

"Reaffirming the provisions for Special and Differential Treatment as an integral part of the WTO Agreements, we urge the remaining work on Special and Differential Treatment be fulfilled and completed by July 2006. We renew our determination to fulfil the mandate in paragraph 44 of the Doha Mandate that all Special and Differential Treatment provisions shall be reviewed with a view to making them more precise, effective and operational. Given the limited progress on issues referred to subsidiary bodies, we instruct that all outstanding Special and Differential Treatment issues be addressed by the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session, giving priority to the agreement-specific proposals. The Special Session shall report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2006. We further instruct the Special Session to complete its mandated work on the framework on Special and Differential Treatment".

3. Other Issues

It is fundamental to ensure the developmental dimension is fully entrenched in WTO rules with a view to supporting the sustainable development of developing countries and LDCs. In this context, the ACP Group attaches high importance to the following issues and urges that the Draft Ministerial Text be amended with the addition of the following:

(i) Agreement on Anti-Dumping and ASCM (paragraph 10 Annex D)

"The new disciplines shall be simpler and less stringent and provide a more development friendly framework in as far as developing countries and LDCs are concerned."

(ii) Dispute Settlement (paragraph 28 of the Draft Ministerial Text)

Paragraph 28 of the Draft Ministerial Text be amended with the addition of the following text:

"We reaffirm that the DSM shall be improved and clarified with a view to introducing the necessary flexibilities for developing countries and LDCs."
