

**Statement delivered by Barbados on behalf of the SVEs under Agenda
Item IV of the December 18-19, 2007 General Council**

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the report and the timeframes proposed by the chair of the TNC and like others we commit to working with the agriculture and NAMA chairs to help with the task of getting over the first hurdle- i.e. full agriculture and nama modalities by the end of February. For this task to be accomplished, however, we ask that members collaborate to narrow differences rather than collaborate to widen them at this late stage.

My mind goes back to the triangle of issues that led to the suspension last year. If the horizontal process is to succeed next year, especially in the very narrow window of opportunity envisaged, it seems to me that the ag and nama chairs must collaborate in the development of their revised text if the problems of imbalance seen between the original texts are to be avoided.

With regards to the SVEs priorities in the negotiations we wish to thank those delegations who have spoken before us and those that will speak after us, in support of our efforts.

We note the willingness of Members to work with SVEs to negotiate numbers within the architecture presented by the nama Chair. We welcome this as we believe that the impact of SVE solutions on the world's trading system is insignificant enough to be resolved ahead of the horizontal process.

In the recent past one of our more colourful Ambassadors expressed his dislike for what he described as solutions resembling a Christmas tree. Now we all know that it is not the Christmas tree that matters, rather it is what is placed under the tree. We cannot make the big kids happy and leave the other kids unhappy nor do we accept the opinion that when we all are unhappy the balance is probably right. Some of us have been happy for a long time while most of us have been very unhappy for a long, long time. I support that is why we all launched this development round.

In closing Mr Chairman, we are concerned that the complexity of the Rules issues and the structure of the Services negotiations have the potential to make overall conversion difficult. We are therefore pleased that the Rules chair has taken the initiative to move early to present a text.

Let me add Chair that while Barbados agrees that something has to be presented on Services, we do advise caution.

Thank You

Permanent Mission of Barbados, December 18, 2007