

## **Statement of the NAMA 11 Group of Developing Countries to the WTO GC – 07 February 2007**

Mr Chairman,

As I stated on behalf of the NAMA 11 Group of Developing Countries at the General Council Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the NAMA 11 remains disappointed that the negotiations had to be suspended at the end of July 2006, due to the inability of some members to make significant movements in agriculture. Indeed, it is our view that a continued delay in the progress of the Doha Round is a delay in the promise of the development outcomes of the Doha Development Agenda.

Mr Chairman,

Developed countries too have major gains to make from a successful Doha Round. What is on the table in NAMA – notwithstanding the specific Swiss Formula to be agreed - will yield the most significant cuts in developing country tariffs from bound rates, compared to efforts undertaken by developed (and developing) countries in all previous eight GATT Rounds on industrial tariffs. Developed countries are still the major exporters of industrial goods and will be the major beneficiaries. In addition, new and increased trade flows continue to take place in all NAMA 11 countries as a result of unilateral liberalization and increased growth in most of the NAMA 11 members and other developing countries. However, we should not forget that the Doha mandate promised that unlike previous rounds, the Doha Round would ..”eliminate tariff peaks, high tariffs and tariff escalation, as well as NTBs, **in particular on products of export interest to developing countries**”.

Mr Chairman,

Whilst the NAMA 11 group are all committed to advance the substance of the negotiations we continue to be concerned that the sequencing of the negotiations that the Doha Development Agenda was careful to incorporate in its work programme ie, development issues first; agricultural modalities second; and then NAMA modalities; is not abandoned or even turned on its head.

Mr Chairman,

As our Ministers stated in a Ministerial Communiqué on 29 June 2006, the NAMA 11 is willing to contribute to the NAMA negotiations. This contribution will be based on the objective of achieving a fair, balanced and development oriented set of NAMA modalities predicated on the following mandated principals:

- placing development concerns at the heart of the negotiations;
- ensuring “less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments” for developing countries;

- comparable level of ambition with agricultural market access; and
- appropriate flexibilities to manage adjustment costs and address development needs.

With regard to flexibilities, the NAMA 11 re-iterates that unconditional recourse of developing to the numbers in the brackets in paragraph 8 are the bare minimum and should be adjusted upwards to enable some of our economies to manage the adjustment of sensitive sectors.

Mr Chairman,

As the negotiations resume, we should ensure that sequencing of the negotiations also *within* NAMA is mindful of the progress in the negotiations in agriculture. Sectorals are not part of the core modalities nor are they mandatory, and therefore would need to be appropriately sequenced in the negotiations. In addition, the issue of export taxes and export restrictions are not part of the NAMA mandate and cannot be brought into the negotiations at this late stage. The NAMA 11 also believes that Non Tariff Barriers have to be meaningfully and comprehensively addressed in this Round.

Mr Chairman,

It is in this spirit that the NAMA 11 welcomes the call made by the DG at the recent Informal TNC meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January to fully resume the negotiations across all areas of the DDA. In conclusion, Chairman, the NAMA 11 wishes to stress that all our members are fully committed to contributing to the current process in the negotiations led by the Chairman of the NAMA negotiations.

I thank you.