



NATO Parliamentary Assembly

DRAFT RESOLUTION

on

ADVANCING THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

presented by

Hugh BAYLEY (United Kingdom),
Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations
and
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Vice-President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. **Recognizing** that 2005 has been declared the Year of Development, during which a number of initiatives designed to pull millions of people out of poverty have been either launched or advanced;
2. **Observing** that these initiatives include: debt cancellation for the most impoverished countries, increased aid, formal commitments by developing countries to improve governance and transparency and, most importantly, the Doha Development Agenda of multi-lateral trade negotiations;
3. **Applauding** developed and developing country negotiators for agreeing to a trade negotiation framework, in which every topic under negotiation during the Doha Round has a vital development dimension;
4. **Acknowledging** that the successful conclusion of the Doha Agenda would also bring enormous benefit to the world's wealthier countries by lowering trade barriers, increasing market depth, triggering more efficient capital allocation, slashing prices and ultimately generating greater economic activity;
5. **Convinced** that extending greater market access to the developing world, especially in the agricultural sector, represents the greatest contribution to development that Western countries can make because 70% of the world's poor live in rural areas; because 90% of the potential gains from

a Doha agreement would be generated through market access reforms; and because open trading systems create growth and pull people out of poverty;

6. **Recognizing** that for many developing countries participating in the Doha negotiations, agricultural trade liberalization is the highest priority;

7. But **lamenting** the lack of progress in the current negotiations, and most notably the failure to find common ground in agricultural talks concerning market access, tariff peaks (tariffs above 15 % which have a disproportionate impact on agricultural and food products and labour-intensive goods) and special and differential treatment provisions designed to ease the burden of transition for developing countries;

8. **Observing** that exempting just 2% of tariff lines for "sensitive and special products" would eliminate most of the gains developing countries might obtain from tariff reduction;

9. **Understanding** that the key to a successful negotiating round lies not only in developed country concessions on agriculture but also developing country concessions in non-agricultural sectors including manufacturing and services;

10. **Noting** that failure to make progress in these difficult areas by the time Ministers convene at the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2005 would potentially undermine these negotiations, which must be concluded at the end of 2006, and thus leave the world trade system operating under an ever more obsolete set of trading rules;

11. **CALLS** on member parliamentarians to urge their governments and trade negotiators:

- a. to extend generous agricultural market access with rapid and substantial reduction of existing tariffs and sharp limits on the designation of so-called "sensitive" goods that can enjoy higher protection rates, a practice that hitherto has hampered food exports from developing countries;
 - b. to carry out earlier commitments to ensure that the Doha Agenda results in the elimination of all agricultural export subsidies;
 - c. to support trade facilitation policies and infrastructure projects explicitly designed to help the developing world better exploit the new opportunities that a more open trading system would bring about;
 - d. to ensure that developing countries, taking into account special and differential treatment provisions, make concessions in manufactured goods and service trading rules that will ultimately benefit developed and developing countries alike; and thus,
 - e. to make 2005 genuinely a year of development implementation and wealth creation.
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