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Agenda item 6

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON ITS  
FIFTY-SECOND SESSION**

Held at the Palais des Nations  
from 3 to 14 October 2005

Rapporteur: Mr. Levan Lomidze (Georgia)

Speakers:

Argentina  
Mauritius for the ACP  
Group  
Cuba  
Jordan  
Azerbaijan  
South Africa  
China

Ethiopia  
Ghana  
Djibouti  
Mauritania  
Barbados  
Zambia  
Senegal  
Zimbabwe

Sudan  
Afghanistan  
Brazil  
Yemen  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Cameroon  
African Union

**Note for delegations**

This draft report is a provisional text circulated for clearance by delegations.

Requests for amendments to statements by individual delegations should be communicated by **Tuesday, 18 October 2005** at the latest, to:

UNCTAD Editorial Section, Room E.8104, Fax No. 917 0056, Tel. No. 917 5655

**REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES IN THE POST-DOHA WORK  
PROGRAMME OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

*(Agenda item 6)*

1. For its consideration of this agenda item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

“Review of developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat” (TD/B/52/8).

2. The representative of **Argentina** stressed the importance of the outcome of the DWP in opening concrete opportunities for developing countries, avoiding marginalization and ensuring full integration into the MTS. The negotiating attitude and position of developing countries regarding the various areas of Doha negotiations should not be interpreted as simplistic defensive or offensive approaches. In fact, the interests of developing countries were much more complex, involving both defensive and offensive agendas that coalesced into a wider development agenda. Many externalities could influence the outcome of the negotiations, such as delays in reforming the IMF, technology developments, safety and security issues, macro-policy settings and economic cycles in developed countries.

3. The representative of **Mauritius**, speaking on behalf of the **ACP Group**, said that the current session of the Board was an opportunity to reflect on the state of the Doha negotiations and attempt a first audit of development issues, consistent with UNCTAD's role as the UN focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development. The vision and expectations of the ACP countries in the coming round remained the same: a clear development outcome that would allow their small and vulnerable economies to integrate into the global economy in a harmonious and fair manner and in realization of the MDGs. To ensure a successful development outcome for the Hong Kong (China) Ministerial Meeting, it was important that action be taken to ensure that the perspectives, focus and direction of the negotiations were re-centred on development.

4. Furthermore, the modalities to be considered in the different sectoral negotiations should contain specific provisions to respond to ACP countries' development concerns and provide the required policy space and flexibility to ensure real and effective SDT. Another issue of concern was the negotiating process; it was disturbing to see major decisions and negotiations taking place outside Geneva in mini-ministerial meetings where the majority of members were not represented. The legitimacy of the WTO depended on the political ownership of, and participation in, the process by all.

5. Agriculture played a vital role in the economies of the ACP countries. In this respect, ACP concerns included the following issues: longstanding preferences, special products, a tariff reduction formula with the necessary flexibility, the designation of products traded under longstanding preferences as sensitive products, the SSM, duty-free and quota-free access for LDCs, issues relating to food security, food aid, SDT in respect of STEs and export credits, and implementation of the Marrakech Decision on the net-food-importing developing countries (NFIDCs). The ACP Group expected a balanced package that took into account the interests and concerns of all, and in particular those of small, weak and vulnerable countries.

6. With regard to cotton, it was necessary to achieve a successful negotiating outcome. He stressed the need to eliminate all forms of export subsidies, as well as domestic support measures, and to improve market access, including bound duty-free and quota-free access for cotton and other products. The creation of an emergency support fund for cotton was important. With regard to NAMA, the Group continued to be preoccupied with the formula, treatment of unbound tariffs, preference erosion and flexibilities. For the Group, less than full reciprocity and SDT were integral and cross-cutting components of the Doha mandate. A balanced package could be reached only if preferences were addressed as an integral part of NAMA negotiations. Flexibilities in binding coverage commensurate with the ACP countries' development levels should be accorded to these countries.

7. In services negotiations, the offers submitted thus far failed to address the asymmetries in the Uruguay Round commitments in which sectors and modes of supply of export interest to ACP countries were least liberalized. The Group requested substantial improvement in market access in modes and sectors of export interest to ACP countries. In the case of mode 4, there was a need to ensure a meaningful outcome for the ACP countries, particularly in important sectors such as tourism, professional services and construction. The ACP Group sought the intensification of work in the rule-making area so as to restore balance between market access and rule making. The proposal on "complementary approaches" was objectionable, as these threatened existing GATS guidelines and procedures and were contrary to Articles IV and XIX of the GATS. On development issues, the Group reiterated that development lay at the heart of the DWP. Given the critical importance of development to ACP countries, the Group was concerned regarding the lack of progress on these issues, which were key components for successful achievement of the development objectives, which in turn lay at the heart of the Doha round. The Group attached particular importance to the situation of LDCs and stressed the need for LDCs to receive priority attention to facilitate their meaningful integration into the MTS.

8. The substantial outcome of the Hong Kong meeting should be consistent with the ACP Group's development objectives if the modalities to be agreed on addressed the issues critical to them. Finally, he expressed appreciation for the secretariat's background documentation and the technical assistance that the secretariat provided to member States.

9. The representative of **Cuba** complimented UNCTAD for its background document (TD/B/52/8) and reiterated his country's commitment to working towards ensuring a successful DWP. The results of the negotiations needed to take into account the legitimate aspirations of developing countries. A balanced outcome should be sought, giving priority to development concerns and issues related to SDT and implementation. In this regard, issues important to Cuba included a prompt solution to the issue of TRIPS and public health, addressing the concerns of small economies, dealing with the relationship between trade, debt and finance, and addressing the issue of trade and transfer of technology. An open MTS was not sufficient to assure gains from trade to developing countries and address the issue of marginalization of many countries from international trade. Open trade could not be the sole objective of the negotiations, as was demonstrated by the relationship between export growth and income growth in many countries. Foreign debt kept on growing even though developing countries had allocated enormous resources for its payment. Trade could not be undertaken at the expense of industrial development, and a shift from rhetoric to action was needed in order to ensure policy space for developing countries to confront poverty. South-South cooperation could complement North-South cooperation but not replace it. He highlighted the role of UNCTAD as focal point of the UN system for issues of trade and development and requested that UNCTAD continue to play its historical role in this area.

10. The representative of **Jordan** thanked UNCTAD for its contribution to the Arab Ministerial Conference on the WTO, which had been held in Amman from 26 to 28 September 2005 in preparation for the Hong Kong meeting. As its main goal, the conference had sought to develop a common position among Arab countries at the WTO, as was outlined in the Amman Declaration adopted at the conference. Among other issues, the declaration stressed the importance of putting the interests and concerns of developing countries, and in particular LDCs, at the centre of the WTO process, including the Hong Kong meeting, which should live up to the development goals established at the international level within the global partnership for development. Developing countries, including Arab ones, attached priority to advancing in the negotiations on agriculture, in particular with respect to elimination of subsidies, treatment of sensitive products, and adoption of the formula proposed by the G-20. In the area of NAMA, progress in eliminating trade barriers must be achieved. Arab developing countries looked forward to a positive response by developed WTO members to their requests made in the negotiations on trade in services, namely in the area of market access for Mode 4. Work on GATS rules should also be expedited in line with their corresponding mandates. Development concerns were the main issues of interest to the Arab world, and this should be reflected in all ongoing negotiations and in providing for SDT to these countries. WTO members should also acknowledge the liberalization achieved by Arab developing countries and grant corresponding flexibility. Further support from development partners was necessary in providing assistance for mitigating costs associated with trade reform and liberalization, as well as for building the trade competitiveness of Arab developing countries. WTO members should take steps to facilitate the WTO accession process and should support Palestine's request for observer status in the WTO.

11. The representative of **Azerbaijan** stressed the central role of trade as an engine for growth, development and poverty eradication. At the same time, smooth integration of developing economies into the MTS had yet to be achieved. Azerbaijan, as a country acceding to the WTO, noted the serious difficulties and challenges that other countries had faced in the recent WTO accession in meeting their obligations. Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness from world markets and higher transaction costs hampered the competitiveness of landlocked developing countries. The economy's dependence on one sector, poverty and unemployment, and the presence of a million refugees were particular factors impeding the further economic growth of Azerbaijan. The Doha round should reflect the particular needs of landlocked developing countries as outlined in the Asunción Platform adopted by the trade ministers of the landlocked developing countries in Paraguay. Taking into account the calls to support small and vulnerable economies in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and UNCTAD XI's São Paulo Consensus, which recognized landlocked developing countries as small and vulnerable states, it would be timely to bring landlocked developing countries into the WTO Work Programme for Small Economies. In addition, support and facilitation of WTO accession for 9 out of 31 landlocked developing countries that were not members of the WTO and, in principle, application of SDT to all acceding landlocked countries would need to be reflected in the final document of the Hong Kong meeting and in the final decision of the Doha round.

12. In his second intervention, the representative of Azerbaijan thanked the UNCTAD secretariat for its background document on post-Doha developments. He stressed the high quality of the technical assistance provided by UNCTAD to countries in the process of accession to the WTO and said that Azerbaijan counted on continuing support from UNCTAD on accession issues.

13. The representative of **South Africa** said that there would be clear quantitative gains for all countries from a successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations, and that 70 per cent of the development content of the round would come from successful outcomes in agriculture, NAMA and services. He appreciated the recognition of the need for developing countries to safeguard some policy space in the process of liberalization. He emphasized the need for a clear delineation between SDT and asymmetries in the levels of commitments by countries, pointing out that the former should be understood in and of itself and that developed countries should benefit from it equally, irrespective of their levels of commitments. He raised some issues regarding developing- and developed-country constituencies and how countries had dealt with them. Developed countries should learn from and follow the example of developing countries which had taken their constituencies on board and not allowed the negotiations to be delayed on their account.

14. The representative of **China** expressed concern regarding the slow pace of the Doha round. There was a need to sustain strong momentum, and China was willing to join others in promoting the negotiating process towards a successful sixth WTO Ministerial Conference and a fruitful conclusion of the Doha round in 2006. As the UN focal point for trade and development, UNCTAD should make a positive contribution to this process through the three pillars of its work. The future of the MTS would be undermined if it did not meet the needs of developing countries. In the negotiations, full consideration should be given to the level of development and the assimilation capacity of developing countries. SDT was important in enabling developing countries to adopt development strategies that suited their national conditions. While development ran through all areas of negotiations, new categories of developing countries should not be created. Negotiations on agriculture should result in substantive reduction of trade-distorting domestic support and establish an end date for the elimination of export subsidies. Formulas for tariff cutting under NAMA should be determined expeditiously so as to drastically reduce tariff peaks and tariff escalations, with adequate SDT made available to developing countries. Priority needed to be given to the opening up of service sectors of export interest to developing countries, including in Mode 4, while existing flexibility under GATS should be respected, with the characteristics of new members taken into account. Trade facilitation was also important. Customs procedures should be simplified to improve efficiency. There was a need to increase support to developing countries and LDCs in the form of technical and financial assistance and capacity building. The abusive use of anti-dumping measures was a matter of concern to his delegation. Negotiations on WTO rules should thus embark on text-based discussions to clarify and improve the relevant WTO Agreements. Full consideration should be given to the concerns of newly acceded countries as recognized in the "July package".

15. The representative of **Ethiopia** expressed appreciation for the training that UNCTAD had provided to the Ethiopian negotiating team, and also to development partners for enabling UNCTAD to provide the requisite support. The issue of WTO accession appeared to have been pushed to the back burner, probably as a result of members' preoccupation with the Doha development agenda negotiations. Countries aspiring to join the WTO desired to do so because of the benefits to be derived from membership, including securing predictable, transparent market access, creating investor confidence to promote FDI flows, and participating in the rule-making process. In spite of the benefits of membership, the price to be paid for joining the global body was enormous, especially for LDCs, which faced severe constraints in terms of human, administrative and institutional capacities vis-à-vis the challenging process of WTO accession. Continued support was needed from the international community in a range of areas, including the provision of intensive training to the negotiating team, continuous sensitization of stakeholders, financing of participation at

the working party meetings, conducting sectoral studies and supporting implementation of negotiated outcomes.

16. The representative of **Ghana** expressed appreciation for the opportunity afforded by the Board to deliberate on post-Doha developments and for UNCTAD's assistance to developing countries. Trade was important in the development strategies of African countries, hence their support for the DWP. The role of trade in Africa's development, combined with debt relief and appropriate aid, had been highlighted at the 2005 World Summit and the G8 meeting as well as in the UN Millennium Project report and the Blair Commission report. Yet UNCTAD studies indicated that Africa had not benefited significantly from the tremendous expansion in world trade in the last 20 years, with its total share in world trade now accounting for about 2 per cent as compared to 4 per cent in the 1960s. In spite of this, African countries had undertaken meaningful, sometimes painful reforms towards liberalization of their economies to benefit from globalization. The launch at Doha in 2001 of a round of negotiations devoted to development had raised enormous expectations. Africa's interests in the negotiations in the lead-up to the sixth WTO Ministerial Conference had been clarified. On agriculture, salient goals included the following: a credible end date for the elimination of export subsidies; exemption of African countries from reductions in domestic support; improved market access for Africa's agricultural products; and continuation of SDT for African countries. It was essential to arrive at an agreement for predictable duty-free, quota-free access for cotton and its by-products and the creation of an emergency fund for cotton production. For NAMA, a development-oriented tariff reduction formula suited to developing countries and their ability to offer and sustain concessions was needed. Preferences were important to Africa, and solutions to the issue of preference erosion should be found within the WTO negotiations. Regarding services, many countries faced difficulties in submitting requests and offers owing to lack of capacity. Agreement on Mode 4 was important. Ghana objected to the recent proposal on "complementary approaches" as it threatened the existing GATS structure. As for trade facilitation, negotiations should lead to SDT provisions that were precise, effective and operational. Capacity building in trade facilitation was of critical importance. Regarding WTO rules, it was necessary to avoid the introduction of more complex disciplines while increasing flexibility for developing countries. Development should be placed at the core of the Doha negotiations, including in SDT, commodity issues, technical assistance, capacity building and technology transfer, the special situation of LDCs and small economies, and trade, debt and finance. He highlighted the importance of institutional coherence between WTO and the Bretton Woods institutions, which should also be reflected in obligations and policy advice to developing countries. The swift and successful conclusion of the Doha round would strengthen the MTS and lay the foundations for the next wave of global economic expansion.

17. The representative of **Djibouti** expressed appreciation for UNCTAD's support to LDCs in their efforts to integrate beneficially into the international trading system. LDCs remained among the countries most marginalized from the system, and without an enabling environment in the form of supportive trade rules complemented by technical assistance and capacity-building efforts, LDCs might lose rather than gain from the Doha negotiations. This was particularly relevant in view of the lack of productive capacity in most LDCs to take advantage of new trade opportunities. Such losses could be aggravated by the erosion of preferences. So, while the Doha negotiations progressed, equal focus was needed on additional development-related support in terms of technical assistance and capacity-building efforts to enable LDCs to adjust and develop competitive productive structures to participate gainfully in international trade. In the light of this challenge, there was a need to reinforce technical assistance for LDCs such as that provided by UNCTAD in trade and trade

negotiations. He expressed appreciation to donors who had contributed support to UNCTAD's technical assistance activities in favour of LDCs' engagement in the Doha negotiations, and he requested that they increase such support in view of the demands of LDCs.

18. The representative of **Mauritania** expressed appreciation for the opportunity provided by the Board to deliberate on post-Doha developments in areas of concern and interest to developing countries and LDCs. He welcomed the secretariat's background documentation, which provided a guide to the negotiations in general and in specific areas, including those relevant to African countries and LDCs. He stressed the importance of the Doha round for developing countries. He pointed out the vulnerability of the African continent and LDCs in general in the international trading system. The results of the negotiations should reflect the difficulties of developing countries on the supply side and take into account the level of the economy of each country, since most of these countries had no products to trade. He also stressed the problem of debt. While the Washington Decision after the G8 meeting represented an important step, debt remained an acute problem for most developing countries. He concluded by highlighting the importance of having development issues taken into account in all areas of the negotiations.

19. The representative of **Barbados** expressed appreciation for the secretariat's background documentation and thanked UNCTAD for its support, especially for its public exposure of developing countries' issues in the Doha round. He stressed the importance of the work programme on small economies, which were prevented by their size from taking advantage of world trade. In Doha, Ministers had acknowledged that small economies should be given special consideration and that the programme put in place should devise solutions to their problems without creating a new category of WTO Members. The programme had now started to focus on framing responses to these problems. Among the specific areas mentioned were preferential market access; transfer of technology and capacity; flexibilities for small economies to use subsidies; and lower tariff reduction commitments. The challenge would be to transform these ideas into concrete proposals. He hoped that Ministers would endorse the work programme at the Hong Kong meeting and that the WTO would give due attention to the proposals made.

20. The representative of **Zambia** said that LDCs were determined to contribute to the success of the Doha round. The round was about development and developing countries, especially LDCs. However, the interests of LDCs were not being given attention in the negotiations. Developed countries were not making progress in fulfilling their commitments to provide SDT to developing countries, especially LDCs. The objective of zero tariffs for all goods originating in LDCs remained elusive. LDCs' concerns had been elaborated in the many declarations of LDC Trade Ministers in Zanzibar (Tanzania), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Dakar (Senegal) and most recently Livingstone (Zambia). These included (a) immediate and predictable binding commitments in the WTO for duty-free market access in developed countries for all industrial and agricultural goods exported from LDCs, and from developing countries that were able to do so on a non-reciprocal basis; (b) elimination of subsidies to cotton farmers in developed countries and to cotton exports; (c) rules of origin that were flexible, non-trade-restrictive, simplified and LDC-friendly; (d) total elimination of non-tariff barriers; (e) flexibility for LDCs to undertake any binding of unbound tariffs on an autonomous and voluntary basis; (f) Mode 4 access that could help reduce unemployment in developing countries; (g) trade-related capacity building to improve agricultural productivity, infrastructure and facilities for compliance with SPS and various certification requirements; and (h) support to LDCs in addressing supply-side constraints and building technological

capacity and physical infrastructure, including through enhanced resources provided by cooperating partners through the Integrated Framework. Furthermore, as was specified in the "July package", LDCs should not be required to undertake any tariff reduction commitments as in NAMA and should benefit from the principle of non-reciprocity and not be required to engage in trade-offs in the negotiations. This same principle in the MTS needed to be observed in the negotiations on economic partnership agreements between the European Union and the LDCs.

21. The representative of **Senegal** underlined UNCTAD's crucial role in support of developing countries' trade and development. He stressed the difficulties faced by developing countries in competition and in protecting their domestic markets. The CAP reform had had a great impact on the price of cereals and imported chicken, forcing many poultry farms in Senegal to close and reducing employment, as in other West African countries. Current NAMA and agriculture negotiations should therefore bring results taking into account safeguard measures, SDT and flexibility in the rules and procedures. Developing countries should also have defensive preoccupations to consolidate domestic markets through support or protection of essential sectors. This would help their supply capacity and would allow LDCs to compete in developed countries' markets and strengthen South-South trade.

22. The representative of **Zimbabwe** stressed UNCTAD's crucial role in support of developing countries' trade and development through the three pillars of its work, and specifically for Zimbabwe in its preparations for the Hong Kong meeting. The Doha negotiations offered the promise, which must be realized by all, of enhanced market access, a more level playing field in international trade, and improved quality of life. The results of the Doha round should adequately reflect the concerns of developing countries. However, so far, sufficient progress had not been attained for a successful conclusion of the negotiations on schedule. Most delegations had genuine fears and concerns. The background document revealed the difficulties encountered in the post-Doha negotiations in agriculture, NAMA, services, trade facilitation and development issues. The outcome of the Doha negotiations should avoid adversely affecting the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable; achieve enhanced and predictable market access for developing countries' goods and services in developed markets; compensate for preference erosion through adequate safeguard measures; ensure that developing countries' exports were not subjected to protectionist standards and rules of origins; and grant developing countries the requisite policy space. In recognition of these concerns, negotiating partners needed to seek to extend adequate transitory adjustment support measures to cushion developing countries from anticipated trade shocks. Aid for trade, in addition to aid for development, should assist developing countries in developing supply capacities, competitiveness and development-oriented infrastructure. In this regard, UNCTAD played a complementary role in relation to the DWP, and any efforts to dilute this clear and unambiguous mandate were unacceptable.

23. The representative of **Sudan** thanked UNCTAD for its assistance to the LDCs in enhancing their awareness of the rule-based MTS and the challenges it imposed, and in particular for assistance to Sudan in its WTO accession negotiations. To be able to effectively integrate into the multilateral regime, Sudan needed and expected further technical cooperation and capacity-building support to bolster the country's efforts in the accession process and beyond. Many initiatives had been agreed on by WTO members to facilitate and accelerate LDCs' accession to the WTO. However, LDCs continued to see their accession efforts undermined by required commitments that often were not commensurate with the countries' level of economic development. To meet the challenges imposed by the WTO accession process, Sudan required UNCTAD's assistance in building trade capacity. Thus,

Sudan expected that the international community would continue to provide the necessary support to UNCTAD's technical assistance and capacity-building activities related to LDCs' accessions. Negotiators at the Hong Kong meeting should give the problems imposed by accession the priority they deserved.

24. The representative of **Afghanistan** noted the high-quality analysis in the background document. The UNCTAD document "Towards a New Trade 'Marshall Plan' for LDCs" (UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/POV/2005/1) and the background document currently before the Board could serve as guides for successful negotiations at the Hong Kong meeting.

25. The representative of **Brazil** stressed the importance of reaching concrete agreements on the issues being discussed in the WTO in preparation for the Hong Kong meeting. The political will to remove long-standing trade barriers would be the most critical element in this respect.

26. Reviewing issues of the DWP of particular of interest to his country, he said that under the WTO, developing countries agreed to give up flexibility in their domestic agriculture policy in exchange for increased market access for products of interest to developing countries. In the long run, agriculture should be fully incorporated into the WTO rules and treated similarly to industrial goods. In the short run, he called for the elimination of export subsidies and establishment of a credible deadline for that, as well as reduction of domestic support and serious market access barriers. The G-20 in its submission to the WTO had made detailed proposals regarding all areas of agriculture negotiations.

27. Referring to the five proposals made by the LDCs in the DWP concerning SDT, he noted that these proposals had been resisted by the countries that promoted further differentiation of developing countries as a panacea. The WTO Agreements were very specific in the areas of interest to developed countries such as TRIPS, but vague with respect to SDT. SDT provisions must be strengthened and made more precise, effective and operational. Also, little progress had been made on the question of the relation between TRIPs and biodiversity, as provided for in the Doha Declaration, and any positive solution depended on the willingness of developed countries. The negotiations on NAMA, trade in services, and rules needed to retain policy space for developing countries, and he thanked UNCTAD for its work in promoting public awareness of the relation between trade and development, as well as its ability to undertake independent analysis, especially as the WTO was still biased in favour of most advanced countries. He expressed disappointment that the "first approximation" checkpoint of July 2005 did not provide the expected results. However, he reaffirmed his country's commitment to a fair, transparent, equitable and rules-based MTS with development as its cornerstone.

28. The representative of **Yemen** thanked UNCTAD for its assistance to the LDCs in enhancing their awareness of the rule-based MTS and the challenges that it imposed, and in particular its assistance to Yemen in its WTO accession negotiations. He highlighted the importance for Yemen of integrating into the MTS. Referring to the WTO General Council Declaration on LDCs acceding to the WTO, he emphasized that this should be implemented equitably and be consistent with Members' obligations at the WTO.

29. The representative of **Côte d'Ivoire** expressed appreciation for the opportunity provided by the Board to deliberate on post-Doha developments in areas of concern and interest to developing countries. Commodities had not yet been given an appropriate role in the negotiations, despite the July Framework provision to do so. Yet commodity issues were particularly important to the trade and development of African countries, including his country. These issues needed to be adequately and specifically addressed in the negotiations.

Also, the issue of cotton remained to be fully resolved as agreed in the "July package". In addition, progress in the work on trade, debt and financing issues was important.

30. The representative of **Cameroon** praised the background document, particularly the elaboration of essential elements of a realizable development package from the Doha round. The Board, in keeping with UNCTAD's mandate, played an important role in reviewing post-Doha developments in areas of interest to developing countries so as to facilitate consensus on the development dimension of the negotiations. At its regular session in 2006, the Board should assess the results of the upcoming Hong Kong meeting. In multilateral negotiations, the process could be as important as the substance. In this respect, the following three issues were relevant: (a) the negotiations should be all-inclusive, fully transparent and focused in Geneva; (b) mini-ministerials and small group meetings should be avoided; and (c) the ministerial text for Hong Kong should reflect the views of all participants, not only the Chairman's text, as had happened at the WTO's Ministerial Conference in Cancún. Cameroon was committed to working constructively in the Doha negotiations with help from UNCTAD – for example, through JITAP – to raise stakeholder awareness and contributions to the Doha negotiations.

31. The representative of the **African Union** thanked the secretariat for its assistance to the African Union, particularly in connection with its most recent retreat and the Union's Ministerial Meeting in preparation for the Hong Kong meeting. He urged the secretariat to continue working with the African Union and its member States as they prepared for Hong Kong and the challenges that would follow.

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