

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
**Geneva, 16–27 September 2013**

**Plenary on Item 7:**  
**Evolution of the international trading system**  
**and its trends from a development perspective**

**Speaker: Barbados**

**Monday, 23 September 2013**  
*Not checked against delivery \**

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**Draft Statement to be delivered by Barbados on the occasion of the Sixtieth session of the Trade and Development Board, 23 September, 2013**

**Item 7 - Evolution of the International Trading System and its trends from a development perspective**

Mr. President, H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo (Indonesia)

Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD

H.E. Mr. Joakim Reiter, Ambassador of Sweden to the World Trade Organization,

Mr. Simon Cleasby, Chief Executive Officer, Addax Bioenergy,

Mr. Mark Halle, Director, Trade and Investment Programme, Institute for Sustainable Development,

Mr. Aurelio Parisotto, Senior Economist, Multilateral Cooperation Department, International Labour Organization,

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

International trade continues to be an important factor for small economies like Barbados in their efforts at advancing growth, economic development and further integrating themselves into the multilateral trading system. However, we recognise that trade is not the only solution to our economic and social objectives but that it needs to be buttressed by a combination of social and economic policies, legislation and institutional frameworks based on the development objectives of each individual country.

Mr. President, over the last decade, the international economic landscape has been transformed on many fronts. The world has experienced what has been described as the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression. The onset of the crisis was in 2008 but today we see that many world economies are still experiencing its adverse affects. Among these countries, are a number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which owing to their small size and vulnerability to external shocks are finding it difficult to realise pre-crisis growth and development objectives.

The challenges have been exacerbated by the progressive rise in trade distorting Non-Tariff measures during the post-crisis period. Although some of these NTMs have legitimate policy objectives, others still have trade distorting effects on the exports of developing countries. On 23 October, WTO Members will examine the effects of NTMs on small economies as part of the organisations work under the Work Programme on

Small Economies. The basis of which will be the presentation of a paper by the WTO based on its continued work in this area.

Today, as we examine the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective, we see that the remarkable expansion in international trade over the past decade has been largely attributed to the growth in the trade of goods and services in developing countries. As expected growth has not been realised in the same proportions for all developing countries and whilst some countries have been successful in advancing to higher value added exports of goods and services, others remain either producing lower value added products or basic commodities.

The multilateral trading system continues to be under close scrutiny by the international community and the failure or success Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali to be held later this year, continues to lie in with a handful of deliverables. Barbados remains hopeful that in the post-Bali period there would be a renewed impetus to reinvigorate the negotiations on the Doha Development Round. We remain supportive of and committed to “an open, rules-based, predictable, non discriminatory” multilateral trading system and to the towards fulfilment of the relevant of the MDGs targets.

In conclusion Mr. President, we complement UNCTAD on its work – its collection of trade statistics and its data base on trade flows is exceptional. The value of UNCTAD’s work as the focal point in the United Nations system on trade and development should not be understated. The organisation’s role in shaping the international policy dialogue on these areas is one which allows for alternative policy choices for its Members in particular. In this regard, Barbados wishes to reaffirm its commitment to UNCTAD’S work and this organisation.

Permanent Mission of Barbados at Geneva  
23 September, 2013