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**MESSAGE FROM THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO THE
GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE DOHA ROUND OF
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

1. The Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, at its fifty-second session, held in Geneva from 3 to 14 October 2005, reviewed developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries, with the participation of the Director-General of the WTO.
2. The members of the Board, bearing in mind the forthcoming Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong (December 2005), stressed that an early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round should be viewed as a crucial international instrument for development and a driving force for sustained economic growth. This is vital to support and enhance the trade and development prospects of developing countries, and should be seen as an important tool to attain the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the Doha Round has the potential to make a major contribution to global welfare, and, as estimated by UNCTAD, could deliver as much as \$310 billion annually in welfare gains, while developing countries could capture about half of these gains. A meaningful Aid for Trade package would also play an important part in helping translate the development potential of the Round into reality.
3. The key focus should therefore be on maximizing the development value and gains of every sector under the negotiations, and of the Round as a whole. At the same time, the needs and concerns of LDCs, and of other vulnerable developing economies, deserve special attention so as to ensure that they benefit fully from the Round.

4. The members of the Board emphasized that the successful outcome of the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference is indispensable to enable the negotiations to be concluded by the end of 2006. They recognized the urgent need for all Governments participating in the Doha Round, and in particular the major trading members, to exercise fully their responsibilities and leadership, and urged them to give the highest political priority to bringing these negotiations to a timely and successful conclusion.

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