

## Concluding Remarks

These are my concluding remarks.

- All of us in this room have accepted that the present economic and financial crisis present our organization and the membership with serious challenges.
- You have all acknowledged the need to conclude the DDA as a contribution to addressing the present challenges.
- You have also unanimously spoken out against protectionism in all its forms.
- I have heard significant approval of this process, and the need for improvement in subsequent reports.
- I have also sensed clear signals for the continuation of the exercise on a regular basis in the future.
- You have reinforced the need for Members to provide timely notifications.
- There is clear consensus on the need to ensure that the process is transparent and Member-driven.
- Some delegations have clearly questioned the mandate and process. While I note such concerns, I should recall that the TPRB is the General Council meeting under the specific mandate of the TPRM. I would also like to draw Members' attention to Paragraph (d) of the TPRM mandate which states that, between their individual TPR reviews, "Members shall provide brief reports when there are any significant changes in their trade policies".
- Finally, you have stressed and reaffirmed that this should not be a finger-pointing exercise; and that it has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of Members. It is also without prejudice to Members' negotiating positions in the Doha Round.

The above key points of our discussions today are clearly not exhaustive. However, it is important for us to remember that this initiative is evolving, as already highlighted. I am confident that we shall be able to find an acceptable basis on which all WTO Members will feel comfortable proceeding with this exercise.

On the whole, and given what I have heard, I wish to sum up and conclude as follows:

- (i) This has been a very useful exercise; and it is my understanding that Members would be in favour of repeating it. The Director-General should, therefore prepare and circulate, in due course, an updated report covering new developments.
- (ii) This exercise has shown that a major difficulty is gathering complete and accurate information. Therefore, Members should assist in making this exercise a success by volunteering information to the Secretariat, which the Director-General can include in his Report.
- (iii) At the same time, the Secretariat should circulate a document listing all existing notification and other transparency provisions in the WTO and its Agreements, and the Chair of the General Council should write to the Chairs of all WTO Councils and Committees, asking them to consult with Members on ways to improve the timeliness and

completeness of notifications and other information flows on trade measures falling within their areas of responsibility.

- (iv) On the mandate, I will consult with the Chairman of the General Council and with my successor as Chairman of the TPRB, to agree on what would be the most effective way to follow up on the issues of process, mandate, and substance that have been raised today by some delegations, taking into account the objectives, scope and periodicity of the mandate.
- (v) I also believe that we should invite the acceding countries to participate in this exercise with us, so that we can all have a more complete and universal picture of trade policy developments;
- (vi) Regarding assistance to developing countries, I shall ask the Secretariat to follow-up with developing country delegations that need help to better evaluate the effects of the economic crisis on their trade interests.

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