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**AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRADE  
THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION  
15 – 16 JANUARY 2007  
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**Ext/Min/Trade/Decl.1 (III)**

**THE ADDIS ABABA AFRICAN UNION TRADE MINISTERS  
DECLARATION ON WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

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**We**, African Ministers of Trade, meeting in Addis Ababa on 16 January 2007, **having examined** the developments since our last meeting in Nairobi in April 2006 and the subsequent suspension of the negotiations of the Doha Round in July 2006;

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**Taking into account** the issues at stake in these negotiations for Africa and the legitimate aspirations of its people as restated by the Current Chairperson of the African Union in his Statement on 6 October 2006 regarding the resumption of the negotiations;

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**Considering** the immense costs incurred and the related efforts made by African countries in terms of human and financial resources since the launch of the Round in November 2001;

**Emphasising** the imperative need for the Round to yield results that achieve the development objectives contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and later reaffirmed by the WTO General Council Decision of 1 August 2004 (the July Framework) and subsequently the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference held from 13 to 18 December 2005 in Hong Kong;

**Underlining** the understanding reached at the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meeting on 16 November 2006 to build on the consultations and the need to ensure a fully inclusive and transparent process in all areas of the negotiations;

**Underscoring** the fact that African countries, and in particular the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) among them, have specific needs in view of their particular situation and their levels of development;

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**Considering** the adverse consequences of the domestic support and subsidies granted to cotton by the developed countries on the economies and the populations of the cotton producing countries of Africa;

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**Reaffirming** our positions and concerns as contained in the Kigali Consensus (27 - 28 May 2004), the Cairo Road Map on the Doha Work Programme (5 - 9 June 2005), the Arusha Development Benchmarks (21 - 24 November 2005), the Arusha Ministerial Declaration on Commodities (21 - 23 November 2005) and the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration (12 - 14 April 2006);

**Noting with concern** that there are still differences in the positions expressed by the major players, especially on the development dimension, which are hampering a timely and successful conclusion of the negotiations:

1. **STRESS** that it is important to the Members as well as the global economy that the current Round of negotiations give rise to a fair and balanced agreement, including full modalities that will truly integrate the development dimension, pursuant to the mandate given by the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the July Framework and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration which remain the only bases on which these negotiations should be conducted. In this regard, the establishment of partial modalities will not be conducive to a productive and acceptable outcome.

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2. **REAFFIRM** at this critical juncture, our readiness to engage with all Members to ensure that WTO negotiations in Agriculture live up to the commitments of the Doha Round mandate. The results of the negotiations should guarantee substantial and effective reduction in trade-distorting domestic support of developed countries coupled with necessary disciplines to prevent box-shifting and shifting of support among products; substantial improvement in market access; and expeditious elimination of all forms of export subsidies, while taking into account the concerns of the Net Food Importer Developing Countries (NFIDCs) and LDCs. The results should also address the issue of food aid in accordance with the joint submission of the African Group and LDCs in March 2006, resolve the issue of longstanding preferences and preference erosion, including the banana issue and other commodities through trade-related solutions especially the institution of reference periods of equivalent effect or duration and ensure that effective and operational Special and Differential Treatment, Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism are fully integrated in the final outcome, taking into account the development needs and concerns of Africa.

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3. **URGE** that WTO Members, with regard to cotton, immediately build on the positive developments achieved by the General Council Decision of 1 August 2004 and the Sixth Ministerial Conference. We **FURTHER URGE** the Director General of the WTO to speed up the consultation process on the approaches and mechanisms that will address the revenue losses as a result of the decline in cotton prices and to report to the Members of the WTO. We **ALSO CALL UPON** the Director General of the WTO to organise a meeting as soon as possible in 2007 to take stock of the development aspects of the cotton sector as part of the follow up on the mandate given by the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.

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4. **EMPHASISE** that the outcome of Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) negotiations should not lead to the de-industrialisation of African economies. Adequate flexibilities, less than full reciprocity and, appropriate Special and Differential Treatment should be provided to address the development needs and concerns of African countries, including trade solutions to the problem of erosion of preferences.

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5. **FURTHER STRESS** that the Duty Free Quota Free Market Access for products originating from LDCs is still a negotiating issue and must be maintained in the Special Session of the Committee for Trade and Development, taking into account the proposals made by the LDCs. In this regard, We **URGE** Members to build on the positive development of the WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference.

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6. **URGE** that the negotiations in Services should give special consideration to sectors and modes of supply of interest to African countries, maintain the current flexibilities of GATS and allow African Countries to liberalise according to their individual levels of development. We **ALSO CALL** for the full operationalisation of the modalities on the basis of the proposals made by LDCs in March 2006. In this regard, we **REITERATE** our position as reflected in the Nairobi Declaration.

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7. **REAFFIRM** that the negotiations in Trade Facilitation should take into account the need to provide technical and financial assistance and capacity building during the negotiations as well as the implementation and post implementation periods. Such assistance should address among others issues, physical infrastructure and trade capacity constraints. There should be appropriate Special and Differential Treatment provisions for, the developing countries, and particularly for, the LDCs, to enable tangible benefits from the reform process.

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8. **REQUEST** the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the International Trade Center (ITC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other collaborating agencies to assist the African Group to respond rapidly to the evolving dynamics in the negotiations and, in particular, to assist the Group in developing an effective and operational Special and Differential package in the upcoming modalities phase.

9. **RECALL** the pledge made at Doha to place the needs and interests of developing countries, especially the least developed among them, at the heart of the Doha Round. We **therefore REITERATE** our shared interest in a pro-development outcome of the Round. We **HIGHLIGHT** the indivisibility of such a development agenda, **particularly** the need to ensure an ambitious outcome for development.
10. **ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED** to the decline of the development dimension of the Doha Round and to any attempt to modify the existing mandate, given the special situation of African countries and taking into account the need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
11. **URGE** WTO Members, **particularly** the major trading partners **which** have a greater responsibility in these negotiations, to demonstrate flexibility, and show the necessary political will to facilitate the full resumption of the negotiations.
12. **ENCOURAGE** the WTO Director General to continue his consultations while ensuring that the entire **negotiation** process remains fully member-driven, all-inclusive and transparent.
13. **REAFFIRM** our solidarity with all our African members that are in the WTO accession process and **URGE** all WTO Members to facilitate and accelerate the accession process of these countries as we stipulated in the Nairobi Declaration. In keeping with the guidelines for the accession of LDCs, adopted by WTO members on 10 December 2002, we **STRESS** that acceding LDCs should not be compelled to negotiate concessions and commitments that go beyond what is undertaken by existing WTO LDC members. We **ALSO STRESS** that non-LDC African countries in the process of accession should not be compelled to make excessive concessions and commitments which are not compatible with their level of development and go beyond the commitments already taken by **WTO** developing countries **Members**.
14. **UNDERSCORE** our determination to contribute to the emergence of a strong multilateral trade system in the service of development of all WTO Members, through Regional Trade Agreements.
15. **COGNISANT** of the fact that most African countries are currently negotiating Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union and **RECALLING** that the **outcomes** are to be consistent with WTO rules, **URGE** WTO Members in particular to

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Deleted: Soulignons notre détermination à contribuer à travers les Accords Commerciaux Régionaux à l'émergence d'un système commercial multilatéral fort et au service du développement de tous les Membres de l'OMC.

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support ACP proposals, incorporating development dimensions in the negotiations on the review and clarification of Article XXIV of GATT 1994.

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16. **CONCUR** that Aid for Trade is not a substitute for the development objectives set by the Doha Development Agenda. Consequently, the resources to be allocated under Aid for Trade should be truly additional, predictable, non-conditional and released as grants, to enhance supply capabilities, develop trade-related infrastructure, build human and institutional capacities and meet the costs of implementing the multilateral trade rules. We **FURTHER URGE** that the recommendations of the Task Force be implemented expeditiously on a fast track and stand-alone basis, also taking into account the regional dimension of projects and programs implemented in Africa.

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17. **CALL** for effective and timely implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in a manner that will result in positive benefits to the LDCs.

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18. **UNDERScore** that technical assistance and capacity building are key integral components of the Doha Work Programme. We **CALL ON** our development partners to avail resources to the ECA and the African Trade Policy Center (ATPC) to be involved in the delivery of trade related technical assistance to African countries. We **CALL ALSO** on our development partners to adequately finance technical assistance and capacity building through, inter alia, the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the Joint Integrated Trade Assistance Programme (JITAP) and other complementary mechanisms.

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19. **WE RECOGNIZE** that some African countries have benefited from JITAP. We therefore urge the continuation of the programme and the implementation of JITAP III. In this regard, we **FURTHER URGE** our development partners and relevant multilateral organisations to ensure that the original aims of JITAP are not undermined but rather made more secure to serve as a mechanism for delivering technical assistance and capacity building in Africa, while ensuring the participation of the countries that are already beneficiaries of the programme and those requesting to be involved in its conceptualization and in the consolidation of the new phase of the programme.

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20. **FURTHERMORE, determined** to strengthen the synergy between the African countries which JITAP has continued to promote, we WELCOME the

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decision taken at the Workshop on the networking of the institutions involved in trade in services held in Tunis, in June 2006 to create an inter-African network on trade in services and **URGE** our development partners and the relevant multi-lateral organizations to assist in the establishment and operationalization of this network as a tool for the promotion of inter-African trade. We **AGREE**, in this regard, to the creation of a mechanism to follow up on the recommendations of the Tunis Workshop.

21. **UNDERSCORE** the need for fair and balanced representation of Africa in the WTO Secretariat; in particular, we **are concerned** with the under-representation of Africa. We **URGE** that this situation be remedied.
22. **RECOGNIZE** that developing countries have a common strategic objective to advance the development dimension of the Doha Round. We **APPLAUD** the unity displayed since the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference by the various developing countries groupings.
23. **REITERATE** our commitment to working towards the achievement of the objectives of the Doha Round and to the successful conclusion of the negotiations.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2007

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