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## CAMBODIA

Statement by HE Mr Cham Prasidh  
Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to thank the Hong Kong, China authorities for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangement for this 6th WTO Ministerial Conference. As Hong Kong is going to become one of the key staging posts to the successful conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda, I would like to commend the hard work so far done by all the delegations here present, by our hosts, by the WTO Director-General and Secretariat.

I would like to wholeheartedly welcome two new Members to our family. Saudi Arabia and Tonga. I wish you well and hope you can contribute to make this Organization a worthy one.

Ensuring that MC6 will not fail as MC5 in Cancún will provide a strong and positive signal to the millions of people living in developing and underdeveloped countries that the world trading system is going to be beneficial to them too, and not only to the rich people in rich countries.

Last year, Cambodia – as one of the first two LDCs to join the WTO since this Organization's inception in 1995 – had decided to do so because of these very expectations. After joining it, the expectations are not that clear.

As one of the 50 poorest nations of the world, Cambodia continues to call on developed countries and on some important developing countries to open ways for us to survive and prosper. The Livingstone Declaration adopted at the 4th LDC Ministerial Meeting in Zambia on 26 June 2005 shall be a working document at all negotiating tables in this Conference.

Many pledges towards LDCs were made since Doha. A few were so far materialized. Will there be more here in Hong Kong?

I welcome the Membership's decision to amend the TRIPS Agreement to provide better access to affordable drugs. This is one of the hot stones Cambodia has had to swallow during its WTO accession process. I wish to also welcome the decision of the TRIPS Council to extend the transitional period under Article 66.1 of the TRIPS Agreement for LDCs until 1 July 2013.

Regarding the commitment of developed countries to provide duty-free and quota-free access to all products from all LDCs, only a few have followed suit to the *"Everything But Arms"* Initiative of the European Union: Canada, Norway, Australia and New Zealand. I welcome Japan's *"New Development Initiative for Trade"* which provides duty-free and quota-free market access to essentially all products originating from all LDCs. This is one step in the right direction. It's not complete but it's relatively comprehensive in nature. I strongly urge the United States of America to follow suit and fulfil her commitments under the DDA. As the leader of the capitalist world, she is

supposed to be the first to do so, and not the last one. I also urge well-established developing countries to provide similar treatment to LDCs.

Despite this special and differential treatment, I continue to urge developed countries to address the issues of supply capacity of LDCs and their ability to meet the many stringent SPS requirements and rules of origins of developed countries.

Any commitment on "Aid for Trade" shall be part and parcel of the duty-free and quota-free market access for LDCs, and shall be done without any conditionality. Open us the door to your room, not to your room's wall.

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