

CLOSING SESSION

Mr. Benoît Ouattara, Rapporteur (Burkina Faso)

The Steering Committee has considered the numerous proposed amendments to the outcome document and the text before you is an accurate reflection of our discussions. In summary, the document indicates that, subject to certain conditions, trade may be a tool for economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation, and reaffirms our commitment to multilateral system, despite the challenges the system is facing. We invite the WTO to adjust to economic changes and to the challenges facing world trade. We advocate an inclusive and participatory approach at the national and international level in order to ensure that the concerns of people throughout the world are addressed. We also reaffirm the role that parliaments play as a bridge between citizens and governments and the efforts they can make to give new impetus to the trade negotiations.



At this stage, we are not going to reopen the debate. Our Rules of Procedure make it very clear that any amendments to the outcome document have to be considered. I would like to reassure those are not members of the Steering Committee that all the proposals made were thoroughly considered by the Committee. I would like to thank you all for your contributions to the outcome document, and request that it be adopted by consensus.

COMMENTS BY DELEGATIONS

India

We would like to place on record our reservation regarding the sentence in paragraph 10 that reads "Given the actual impact of climate change, we call for greater coherence between the objectives and rules of the WTO and the fulfilment of international environmental obligations". As climate change is a subject of ongoing discussion in other international fora and an agreement is yet to be reached on the obligations arising for different members, it is premature to include such language in the document.

Cameroon

The outcome document faithfully reflects our discussions and should be adopted.

Bangladesh

The outcome document will provide guidance for the WTO negotiations and covers issues relevant for development. However some parts give rise to confusion and a distinction should be made between trade and trade-related issues. In the multilateral and intergovernmental rules-based system, every organization has a clear mandate. The relevance of any organization lies in the delivery of outcomes. Some parts of paragraph 10 are outside the mandate of the WTO and, before putting any new trade-related issues on the table,

existing issues must be tackled, particularly those pertaining to development. Paragraph 8 of the outcome document might have referred to the need to implement expeditiously all the decisions on LDC parity issues, including full consideration of the political guidance of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Venezuela

Disparities between developed countries and developing countries are increasing despite some two decades of discussion about free trade. If this continues, trade will drive us apart. In my opinion, the Conference should have helped to identify a link between trade and politics, and to ensure that social issues, democracy and politics were taken into account in trade issues. Trade has not proven to be a viable instrument for development, particularly in the LDCs, and we must realize that neoliberal policies are not conducive to development at the global level.

