

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS STATEMENT ON THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: Failure is Not an Option

January 15th 2007

The Doha Development Round: Failure is Not an Option

- **Business stakeholders from across the globe call for the speedy conclusion of the Doha Round – the failure of the Round is unacceptable for business.**
- **WTO members must re-start the negotiations with more flexible offers with the goal of achieving agreement on core elements of an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Round within the next 2-3 months.**
- **Meaningful improvements in business conditions must be sought in parallel for manufactured goods, services and agriculture.**

It is critical to the world economy and to the competitiveness of all countries, rich and poor alike, that this Round is not allowed to fail. As representatives of industry from countries across the globe accounting for around 60% of world trade we call for the immediate re-start and speedy, ambitious conclusion of the World Trade Organisation Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations.

It is now commonly accepted that if negotiations are not re-opened soon and the core elements of the Round are not agreed within the next 2-3 months, the final window of opportunity for concluding the Doha Round may close. Missing this timeframe will likely delay for many years any possible re-opening of negotiations. Furthermore, it is quite possible that the political fall-out accompanying postponement may make WTO members reticent to start another round of international trade negotiations altogether. And given the single undertaking nature of the negotiations, the progressive offers now on the table could be lost.

While our governments may have found it difficult to come to agreement so far, for business the definition of a successful Round is clear. It must be ambitious and include the following:

- In industrial goods, the DDA must provide commercially meaningful new market access by substantially reducing or eliminating tariffs. Non-tariff barriers, which will constitute the protectionism of the future, must also be comprehensively and effectively tackled.
- In agriculture, an agreement must lead to commercially meaningful new market access and the reduction and eventual elimination of trade-distorting mechanisms and subsidies in all countries in a coherent and progressive manner, including export subsidies and disciplines on export measures with equivalent effect by the end of 2013 as agreed in the Hong Kong declaration. Only balanced and ambitious liberalisation in all three pillars of the agriculture negotiations will genuinely open markets.

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- In services, WTO members must recognise the benefits of services liberalisation – in terms of increased trade, investment and economic development – by substantially improving their multilateral commitments to tackle non-tariff barriers and provide new market access.
- The trade facilitation negotiations are a welcome bright spot in the bleak DDA picture. To bring them to a successful conclusion, members must agree on a binding, reviewable agreement, which aims to reduce trade transaction costs while improving the transparency and automation of procedures.
- The DDA is the only opportunity in the near term to improve the multilateral rules on which business depends. Clear rules governing anti-dumping and anti-subsidy actions are vital for a level playing field.
- The development package will be key to ensuring a balanced DDA. The developed and developing countries should provide tariff-free and quota-free market access for least developed country exports. An ambitious aid-for-trade package is vital to equip developing countries to reap the opportunities of the global market.

The principle of the single undertaking must remain at the core of the Round if any result is to be achieved. As to figures, they speak for themselves. The potential gains of concluding an ambitious Round are enormous. The World Bank estimates that full liberalisation of trade in goods and agriculture alone could generate up to US\$287 billion, with developing countries gaining about a third of this – a comparable liberalisation in services could lead to up to five times this figure.

While the benefits for an ambitious conclusion of the Round are great, the costs of failure are diverse and grave. Notwithstanding the loss of potential welfare gains, a failed Round could lead to challenges to the World Trade Organization and a strong multilateral rules-based trade system; increased regionalism and protectionism; shocks in financial markets and the loss of an opportunity to catalyze domestic economic reform.

To reap the rewards and avoid the costs of failure, business communities all over the world urge you, as negotiators and leaders of key WTO member countries, to go back to the negotiating table immediately and to show more flexibility in negotiating mandates. Business will support all your efforts to negotiate an ambitious agreement within the next 2-3 months. Failure is not an option.

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Signatories

(North)

America

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA



www.chamber.ca

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is Canada's leading business organization bringing together a strong, diverse network of 170,000 chambers of commerce, boards of trade, business associations, and businesses of all sizes and from all sectors and all regions of Canada.

CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES



CONSEIL CANADIEN
DES CHEFS D'ENTREPRISE

www.ceocouncil.ca

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE) is Canada's premier business association, with an outstanding record of achievement in matching entrepreneurial initiative with sound public policy choices. A not-for-profit, non-partisan organization composed of 150 leading chief executives and entrepreneurs, the CCCE was the Canadian private sector leader in the development and promotion of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement during the 1980s and of the subsequent trilateral North American Free Trade Agreement.

CSC  **Canadian
Services
Coalition**

www.canadianservicescoalition.com

The Canadian Services Coalition (CSC) is a membership based organization designed to provide a strong and cohesive voice to the Canadian services industry. The main objective of the CSC is to increase opportunities for Canadian services companies by removing trade and investment barriers.



www.uscsi.org

CSI is the leading US business organization dedicated to the reduction of barriers to international trade and investment in services. CSI was formed in 1982 to ensure that trade in services, once considered outside the scope of trade negotiations, would become a central goal of future trade liberalization initiatives.



www.nftc.org

The National Foreign Trade Council is the premier business organization advocating a rules-based world economy. Founded in 1914 by a group of American companies that support an open world trading system, the NFTC and its affiliates now serve 300 member companies through offices in Washington and New York.

USCIB
United States Council
for International Business



www.uscib.org

Representing more than 300 leading U.S. companies, professional services firms and associations, the United States Council for International Business promotes an open system of global commerce. As the exclusive American affiliate several leading global business groups, USCIB provides business views to policy makers and regulatory authorities worldwide, and works to facilitate international trade.

(South)
America



Confederação Nacional da Indústria

www.cni.org.br

The National Confederation of Industry is the chief institutional representative of the Brazilian industry. It focuses on improving the competitiveness of Brazilian industry and integrating it to the world economy.



www.fiesp.org.br

The Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP) is the leading regional manufacturing sector organization in Brazil, and is comprised of 132 sectoral trade associations representing over 40% of the country's industrial GDP and more than 140.000 companies.

Asia



www.roccoc.org.tw

The ROCCOC is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the common interests of private sector business community in Taiwan, and to elevate the domestic commercial environment as well as the investment both domestic and abroad. It strives to foster prosperity through promoting foreign trade, enhancing economic growth and cooperative relations among the various parts of the business community.



www.hkcsi.org.hk



The Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries was founded in 1990 by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. It is the Chamber's service policy think tank. With representatives from more than 50 service sectors, the HKCSI is the major private sector voice for Hong Kong's service industries.



www.kita.org

KITA, founded in 1946, is the leading voice of international traders in Korea and Korea's largest and most influential economic organization, representing more than 70,000 members. It advocates free trade, a favorable and competitive business environment to foster sustainable economic growth.

NASSCOM®

www.nasscom.in

NASSCOM is India's National Association of Software and Service Companies, the premier trade body and the chamber of commerce of the IT software and services industry in India. NASSCOM is a global trade body with over 1050 members, of which over 150 are global companies from the US, UK, EU, Japan and China. NASSCOM's member companies are in the business of software development, software services, software products and IT-enabled/BPO services.

NIPPON KEIDANREN

www.keidanren.or.jp

Nippon Keidanren is a key organization in Japan, consisting of more than 1,300 companies and about 130 industrial sector associations, and represents the interests of all businesses.

Australasia



Australian Services Roundtable

www.servicesaustralia.org.au

The Australian Services is a peak business body for the services industries in Australia. The Roundtable is composed of senior industry representatives from the full range of services firms.



www.bca.com.au

The Business Council of Australia is an association of the CEOs of 100 of Australia's leading corporations with a combined workforce of one million people. It was established in 1983 as a forum for Australia's business leaders to contribute to public policy debates to build Australia as the best place in which to live, to learn, to work and do business.



www.wgtn-chamber.co.nz

The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce has been in the business of encouraging regional development and representing the region's wealth creators - its businesses - since 1856.

The 1,150 members, ranging from major corporations to sole traders, benefit from the broad pro-business policy platform promoted by the Chamber and the close personal networks and contacts membership brings.

Europe



www.amchameu.be

The American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU) is the voice of companies of American parentage committed to Europe towards the institutions and governments of the European Union.



www.esf.be

The European Services Forum (ESF) is a network of representatives from the European services sector, gathering European trade associations and multinational companies. The 80 members are committed to actively promoting the interests of the European services sector and the liberalisation of services markets throughout the.



www.unice.org

UNICE is the voice of business in Europe. It represents 39 national business federations from 33 countries including the 25 EU Member States.