

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

APPF-15/RES/13

**APPLICATION OF THE DOHA
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

(Sponsored by New Zealand)

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA- PACIFIC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

Reaffirming the important role that the WTO plays in the promotion and strengthening of the multilateral trade system and observing with interest the results of the ministerial discussions of Doha about global trade liberalisation;

Recognising that the benefits of negotiations tending to consolidate a world trade system must be available for all members of the WTO;

Congratulating Viet Nam on its recent accession to the WTO;

Recalling the work program adopted by the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2006 that has helped to further advanced the breakthroughs contained in the *July Package* – as adopted by the WTO General Council on 31 July 2004;

Noting with concern the temporary suspension of the Doha Round negotiations in July 2006;

Welcoming the recent consensus by WTO member governments to resume discussions with a view to a successful and timely conclusion to the Doha Round in 2007;

Commending APEC leaders on their 18 November 2006 statement at the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, which reaffirms leaders' collective and individual commitments to concluding an ambitious and balanced WTO Doha Agreement, and commits leaders to moving beyond their current positions in key areas of the Round;

Commending also APEC leaders' direction to undertake further studies on ways and means to promote regional economic integration, including a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific as a long-term prospect, while at the same time affirming their commitments to the Bogor Goals and the successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round of negotiations;

Recalling the goal the WTO to integrate both developed and developing countries into a freer and more equitable global trade system;

Recognizing that Parliaments, as representatives of their people, can positively contribute to advancing trade liberalization negotiations by expressing the support of their people for international agreements that seek to ensure strong and stable economies, which in turn bring about the security, prosperity and social benefits their people desire;

RESOLVES TO:

1. *Urge* the governments of the member nations of APPF which are also part of the World Trade Organization to make substantive progress in negotiations in all areas of the Doha Round (particularly on the three pillars of the negotiation defined in the Framework Agreement of July of 2004: elimination of subsidies to agricultural exports; substantial reduction of measures of internal support, sources of distortion of competition, and market access) and preserving an adequate balance between gains made by developed and developing countries;

2. *Reiterate* the commitment of the APPF parliaments towards the promotion of an open, fair and balanced multilateral trading system based on accountable, inclusive and transparent rules, that will benefit both developing and developed countries, and that will encourage sustainable development and contribute significantly to reducing world poverty;

3. *Urge* the parliamentarians of Asia Pacific countries through cooperation in regional and international inter-parliamentary mechanisms to be more active in promoting Doha Development Agenda and maintaining the momentum of the

resumed discussions in order to create conditions conducive to a timely and successful conclusion of the Doha Round;

4. *Encourage* Asia Pacific countries to enhance cooperation and consultation in trade liberalization negotiations in order to reduce trade barriers to facilitate economic reforms in developing countries and gradually narrow the gap between developed and developing countries;

5. *Encourage* all countries, particularly developed countries, to open up their agricultural markets; reduce, with the aim of ultimately eliminating, tariffs and non – tariff barriers and increase technical assistance to developing and least developed countries, so as to assist them in actively and effectively participating in Doha negotiations, implementing WTO rules and furthering the process of economic adjustment.