



**THE 17th ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (APPF)
11-15 January 2009, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR**

APPF/RES/2

**Resolution
on
Negotiations of the Doha Round
(Submitted by Chile and Mexico)**

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Considering that the Doha Round was launched in 2001 with the objective of creating new market opportunities, strengthening norms on multilateral trade with special emphasis on economic inclusion of developing countries and, particularly, of the least developed;

Considering that non-conclusion of the Doha Round would contribute to current world uncertainty and could threaten the credibility of multilateral trade, provoking reorientation toward commercial agreements of a bilateral and regional type;

Recognizing the efforts of the WTO General Director to reach a conclusion on negotiations of the Doha Round and because of this organization's proposals to include the simplification of customs duties, the erosion of preferences, peak custom duties and "special producers" and for the liberation of commerce among 153 WTO members;

Considering that the WTO plays a basic role in assuring better management of globalization and fairer distribution of its benefits, especially toward the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);

Recognizing that higher prices have facilitated reductions in global protectionism through lower custom duties being charged on imported products and machinery linked to agriculture to confront food safety;

Highlighting that developed countries, such as the United States and members of the European Union have reduced their subsidies for production, making the acceptance of cutbacks proposed in the Round's agricultural proposal possible;

Hereby resolves to:

1. **Express** concern for the failure of negotiations of the Doha Round in July 2008 in Geneva, highlighting that this implies a loss of economic growth and development at a world scale;
2. **Exhort** developing countries to request reductions on customs duties in matters of food safety, subsistence safety and rural development;
3. **Exhort** more advanced developed countries to assume their responsibility as world-scale participants and make decisions adequate to their level of development and sectoral competitiveness;
4. **Foster** developing countries to establish policies to improve the productivity and income of poor farmers and reduce the risk of dislocating agriculture;
5. **Exhort** WTO members to work together with a collaborative mind, collective wisdom and maximum courage to establish a solid base for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations;
6. **Urge** WTO members to fulfill the basic principles of non-discrimination, transparency and consensus among the 153 countries and territories that are members of the WTO in order to achieve an agreement in negotiations of the Doha Round as soon as possible;
7. **Emphasize** the need of a strong parliamentary commitment to play a key role in overseeing WTO actions and agreements and promoting a fair and sustainable trade liberalization process. For such purposes, calls on its members to work on concrete measures and proposals to contribute to overcome the unsustainable current situation, through a successful conclusion of the Doha Round;
8. **Call** for APPF members to ask their governments to support and assist Laos for its process of accession to the WTO, taking into account its particular needs and state of development.