

Intervention on WTO 2008

By Hon. Mr. Charin Hansuebsai, Member of the Senate

Thai delegation

Mr. Chairman, fellow delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The multilateral trade negotiation of Doha Round has started since the year 2001, or over 7 years by now, but the negotiation still could not be concluded.

The failure of the latest WTO meeting in July last year has brought concerns to international community, particularly developing and least developed countries.

The disagreeable negotiation, which rooted mainly from Special Safeguard Mechanism on agricultural trade, has reflected trade protectionism of states, particularly from the developed. Indeed, it challenges not only multilateral trading system, but also the WTO credibility.

Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates,

We all know that in order to enhance world economic growth, world trade must consistently be expanded together with wider market access for developing countries.

Unfortunately, rich countries still have not done enough to help poor countries as far as their agricultural exports are concerned.

In order to help developing countries to be able to stand on their own feet in the world trade arena, it is imperative that rich countries sacrifice by giving more concessions to developing countries. That is, to eliminate or further cut import tariffs for agricultural products, as well as to reduce their agricultural subsidy, both on production and exportation, which have caused disadvantage for developing countries.

Of course, to give such concession, the governments of rich countries need to have strong support from their respective parliaments.

In this respect, parliaments can help accelerate the trade negotiation and enhance global trade integration through their legislative roles and should keep follow up on governments' decisions in the field of international trade for ensuring the interests of countries and people.

Thus, parliamentarians should support Parliamentary Conference on the WTO including other parliamentary meetings addressing WTO as the significant issue and support all sections particularly civil society to take part in the WTO process and reform.

Thank you for your attention.