
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

Thirteenth session of the Conference Steering Committee*

14-15 September 2006, IPU Headquarters, Geneva

STATEMENT

We have met to review the current state of the multilateral trade negotiations and to prepare the annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. We note that the decision taken in July of this year to suspend the WTO negotiations *sine die* has effectively ended all hopes for the Doha Round to be concluded by the end of 2006.

This situation has been a wake-up call for political decision-makers and we welcome the fact that many of them have, in various forums, been calling for a resumption of the negotiations. We, members of parliament who have an elected mandate to oversee government action in the field of international trade and promote the fairness of trade liberalization in the interest of populations, join them in expressing support.

We urge all WTO members to demonstrate strong political will to resume the trade negotiations without further delay and call upon the United States, the European Union, the G 20 members of developing countries, and others to play a constructive role in achieving this objective and to deliver an outcome that is centered on development.

The Parliamentary Conference will meet in Geneva in early December this year to assess the extent to which the WTO negotiations benefit all countries and live up to their development objectives. Meanwhile, we will work actively to ensure an early resumption of these negotiations.

* Members of the Steering Committee from the following countries, regional parliamentary assemblies and international organizations were present at the session: Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization.