

**DECLARATION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 6TH WTO MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE HELD IN HONG KONG, CHINA,
13 - 18 DECEMBER, 2005**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the 6th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan on 23rd – 24th January 2006;

Convinced that a multilateral trade system based on fair and equitable rules is crucial for the attainment of rapid and sustained economic growth and development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the commitment made in November 2001 in the Doha Declaration by WTO Members to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha Work Programme;

Recognizing that a faithful and speedy implementation of the Doha Work Programme presents a good opportunity for our countries to be effectively integrated into the global economy and to have a fair share of global trade, which is growing at an unprecedented rate;

Recalling the Cairo Declaration and the Cairo Road Map on the Doha Work Programme, which we endorsed at the 5th Ordinary Session of our Assembly;

Taking Note of the Arusha Development Benchmarks for the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference adopted by the African Union Trade Ministers at the 2nd Extra-Ordinary Session of their Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania on 22-24 November 2005; and

Also Taking Note of the Report of the AU Commission on the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong, China from 13th to 18th December 2005;

1. **COMMEND** our Member States and African negotiators, especially the African Group in Geneva, for the tremendous efforts they deployed prior to and in Hong Kong towards safeguarding Africa's interests in the negotiations on the Doha Work Programme;
2. **EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN** and disappointment at the limited progress achieved in Hong Kong on major issues of interest to Africa;
3. **WELCOME** the commitment contained in the Declaration of the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference to complete the Doha Work Programme fully and to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha successfully in 2006;
4. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to a successful completion of the Doha Development Round and call on the international community, especially

the industrialized developed countries, to show greater flexibility in their negotiating positions and muster the political will to remove the obstacles to the achievement of this objective by 2006;

5. **EMPHASIZE** that the success of the Doha Round will be measured by its development outcomes;
6. **TAKE NOTE** of the decision by the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference to ensure that the parallel elimination of all forms of agriculture export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect is completed by the end of 2013 and **Call** for appropriate compensation to African countries that may be adversely affected by the delay in the elimination of agriculture export subsidies;
7. **WELCOME** the extension of the TRIPs Agreement transition period for LDCs and the incorporation of the temporary solution of August 2003 into an amendment of the TRIPs Agreement and **REITERATE** the need for the simplification of the cumbersome procedure, which has rendered the solution ineffective and unworkable in practice;
8. **COMMEND** the Aid for Trade Initiative and **REQUEST** that it be endowed with adequate resources, and appropriate governance and operational modalities that will enable the initiative serve as an effective instrument for the supply-side capacity building which our countries need in order to use trade for development;
9. **REITERATE** the need to expeditiously review the Special and Differential (S&D) treatment provisions of WTO Agreements with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational;
10. **REAFFIRM** the importance of ensuring that the obligations to be undertaken by our countries are proportional and commensurate with our level of development and will allow us sufficient flexibility to determine our trade policies in accordance with the development goals we have set for our peoples;
11. **CALL** for significant progress and useful outcomes in the negotiations on the issues of implementation; small and vulnerable economies; commodities including cotton; trade, debt and finance; and trade and technology transfers which are critical to making the Doha Work Programme a real development Round;
12. **REQUEST** African Trade Ministers and negotiators to remain engaged, vigilant and united and to intensify their efforts in order to ensure that the interests and concerns of Africa are adequately addressed in the final outcome of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations; and

13. **DIRECT** the AU Commission to take necessary measures to continue to coordinate Africa's common position and, in collaboration with the ECA and other organizations, give necessary technical support to Member States in the WTO negotiations.

2005

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