

**Informal WTO ministerial meeting on the margins of the WEF**

**Davos, 27 January 2007**

**Personal conclusions of the Chair**

**Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, Head of the Swiss Department of Economic Affairs**

- Let me first thank all of you for your active participation in this meeting. We had a frank, open and fruitful discussion
- This informal Meeting was timely given the substantial issues on the table and the critical time frame ahead of us. The fact that it could take place today and that you are all present here in Davos is, in my view, already a success. The discussion brought welcome clarification about where we stand and about how the process can be best brought forward. I am convinced that today's meeting gives a new impetus to the negotiating process.
- In my capacity as chair, I would like to share with you my personal conclusions :
  - First, we could register a renewed commitment by all the participants around this table to put the Doha Round back on track.
  - Second, a strong wish was expressed for a quick resumption of full scale activity in the different negotiating groups in Geneva to strive for a qualitative high level result and hammer out a deal. I note the readiness of ministers to engage and to meet in Geneva when needed
  - Third, participants underlined the need to ensure a comprehensive approach in the negotiations to achieve a broad-based and balanced deal. This means that in parallel to agriculture and NAMA, we need to make progress in services (where a new exchange of requests and offers should take place soon), trade facilitation, rules, development and all the other issues dealt within the Doha Round.

- Fourth, we also shared the view that an inclusive multilateral process allowing for all the sensitivities to be expressed in the negotiations and ensuring transparency represents the best way of achieving a successful outcome. In this respect, I note two strong messages : from the majors to seek the understanding that there is a need for bilateral and plurilateral consultations, which need more time and from all others to the majors to be as clear and transparent as possible and to leave doors open for their concerns and needs. In order to reach balanced results, flexibility will be needed by all participants.
- Fifth, participants stressed the importance of the development dimension in the negotiations and reiterated the firm commitments taken in Doha in this regard.
- Finally, we had a substantive and thorough discussion on the prerequisites for taking advantage of the window of opportunity for making substantial progress. While keeping up the pressure for a successful conclusion of the Round in the short term, participants also reaffirmed the fundamental and enduring value of the WTO system as a whole.
- In summary, today's meeting gave a clear signal that the Doha negotiations shall resume on a full scale basis in Geneva. I am indeed very much encouraged to note that political leaders and the business community gathered here in Davos expressed their full support. I hope that these positive signals will be conveyed outside of this room and reach the large public as well.

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