



30.01.2009

Declaration on OPEN TRADE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Considering the serious risks for international trade flows of goods and services in the current financial and economic turmoil,

Recognizing the necessity to preserve and maintain the integrity and openness of a rule-based multilateral trading system, which is at the heart of economic growth, furthering jobs and prosperity,

Reaffirming the importance of a universal application of the principles of non discrimination and national treatment,

Taking into account the needs of developing countries, especially the least developed countries,

Building upon the Commitment to an Open Global Economy contained in the Washington Declaration from November 15, 2008 of the G-20 leaders,

We, Ministers in charge of trade policy, present at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland,

Agree as follows:

- (i) To continue to attach the highest priority to achieving a successful conclusion of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome. We recognize the major progress made in 2008 towards finalizing modalities in the Doha Development Round, which provides a sound basis for an early resolution of the remaining differences in 2009;
- (ii) To refrain from raising new barriers to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing WTO inconsistent measures to stimulate exports and wherever possible pursue efforts to create new trade and investment opportunities;
- (iii) To support efforts at the multilateral level to monitor the implementation of new trade-related policy developments with a view to helping governments in maintaining open markets.