



**Informal WTO Ministerial Meeting, Davos,
29 January 2011**

**Concluding Remarks by Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann,
Minister of Economy of the Swiss Confederation**

I am thankful to all of you for the insightful discussion we had this morning. From our discussion, I draw the following conclusions:

- 1) We noted with satisfaction that by now all negotiating groups were active and making progress with a view to get to negotiating texts in all areas of the Doha negotiations by April.
- 2) We all stressed the need to work with higher intensity and to accelerate the negotiations in order to take advantage of the window of opportunity which the G20 and APEC Leaders have detected for 2011.
- 3) There was a sense that we are in the end game and that if Doha is done, it needs to be done this year. The price for failure of the Round would be too high for each of us and the multilateral system as a whole. In this context some of us mentioned a weakening of the multilateral rules, increase of protectionist pressures and a proliferation of divergent regional and bilateral agreements.
- 4) We agreed with Pascal Lamy's assessment that bilateral and plurilateral negotiations need to be seriously accelerated, the gaps in the positions need to be bridged and divergences need to be drastically reduced in order to have a package by July. This has to happen in parallel to the multilateral negotiations.
- 5) We showed readiness to engage in striving for a more ambitious result in all areas of the negotiations while building on progress reached so far. Those who ask for more should also pay more.
- 6) We agreed that there is a need for a reassessment of our positions and that we will empower our negotiators to engage in give and take and to come up with creative solutions.
- 7) We Ministers are ready to show leadership and to engage in the negotiating process whenever appropriate.
- 8) We are all facing domestic constraints, be it regarding specific sectors, institutional processes, elections, public opinion. Indeed, the Round is a hard sell as one of us was putting it to the point, because the short term costs have often to be balanced out with the medium and longer term benefits.
- 9) Ministers underlined the importance of addressing specific concerns including the need for flexibilities and accompanying measures such as technical assistance and aid for trade.
- 10) To sum up the next steps:
 - Negotiating texts in all areas by April
 - Overall agreement on the package by July
 - The finalisation of legal texts and scheduling during the rest of 2011

I thank you for your active participation in today's discussions.