



Trade Facts

Office of the United States Trade Representative
June 2006

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Ambition in the Doha Development Agenda

WTO Members Set Out an Ambitious Vision for Agricultural Market Opening in 2001

“We recall the long-term objective ... to establish a fair and market-oriented trading system through a programme of fundamental reform encompassing strengthened rules and specific commitments on support and protection in order to correct and prevent restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets. We reconfirm our commitment to this programme. Building on the work carried out to date and without prejudging the outcome of the negotiations we commit ourselves to comprehensive negotiations aimed at: substantial improvements in market access; reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.”

Doha Declaration, November 14, 2001

And Collectively Reaffirmed that Commitment in 2004

“The level of ambition set by the Doha mandate will continue to be the basis for the negotiations on agriculture.”

WTO General Council Decision, August 1, 2004

A Chorus of Voices Support Ambition

"We, therefore, commit ourselves to summon the necessary political will to conclude the negotiations with an ambitious and balanced outcome across the board and we call on all other parties to do likewise."

APEC Trade Ministers' Statement, June 2, 2006

APEC members (who collectively represent 50% of world trade) : Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

“In the latter half of the twentieth century, sovereign governments succeeded through successive GATT Rounds in winding back on beggar-thy-neighbour policies. Are we going to keep up that sensible momentum in the twenty-first century under the WTO, or are we just going to let it slide?”

....On agriculture, we need to get the tariff cutting numbers finalised. And, whatever those numbers are going to be, they have to go far enough to mean real cuts. [W]e have to bear in mind a fundamental credibility test: the outcome has to make a real difference. It can't just be a case of paper cuts. New trade needs to flow.”

Trade Policy Message to Ministers
from the Co-Chairs Of The OECD Trade Committee
May 2006

“Stronger country policies and more and more effective aid must be complemented with ambitious moves to increase openness and market access and to ensure that trade benefits the poor. Without a timely and ambitious outcome for the Doha Development Agenda, developing countries will not achieve the economic growth needed to meet the [Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)]. ...

IMF/World Bank Development Committee Communiqué, September 25, 2005

“We pledge ourselves to work to further increase momentum towards our goal of an ambitious and balanced outcome in the negotiations, our highest common priority in trade policy for the year ahead. We must focus on the core issues to create new market opportunities. In agriculture, we are committed to substantially reducing trade-distorting domestic support and substantially improving market access. We will pursue a high and consistent level of ambition in all areas. ”

G-8 Leaders Trade Statement Gleneagles July 2005

“The G-8 is committed to expanding economic growth, development, and opportunity by achieving ambitious results in the global trade negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) of the WTO. ... Our most pressing task is to focus on the core issues in the negotiations, which are drivers of economic development and growth: substantially reducing trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and barriers to access to markets; opening markets more widely to trade in goods; expanding opportunities for trade in services; overhauling and improving customs rules and other relevant procedures to facilitate trade; and advancing the development of all countries, especially the poorest, within the WTO system.”

G-8 Leaders Trade Statement Sea Island July 2004

“The negotiations on agriculture are central to move the Doha Round to a successful and timely conclusion. Trade in agricultural products continues to be hindered by all sorts of barriers and distortions. True liberalization in agricultural trade and reform that address these barriers and distortions would be a major contribution to the development objectives of the Round.”

G-20 Ministerial Communiqué, Brasília, 12 December 2003

Economic Studies Say Ambitious Market Openings are the Primary Source of Gains

“The liberalization targets under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) have to be considerably more ambitious than the Uruguay Round if the round is to have a measurable impact on world markets and hence poverty.”

Hertel and Winters (World Bank)

“Poverty Impacts of a WTO Agreement: Synthesis and Overview”

“Almost two-thirds of the economic dismantling all merchandise trade barriers and farm subsidies globally would come from agriculture. According to our latest research, this is so for the world as a whole, and also for developing countries as a group. ... [T]o ignore market access in the Doha round would be to forego most of the potential gains from goods trade reform.”

World Bank Trade Note, June 27, 2005

“An unambitious outcome — or failure — of the Doha Round would have major costs both for the global economy and the multilateral trading system.”

International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook, April 2

“U.S. insistence on larger tariff reductions and fewer exceptions is justifiable...[S]hallow cuts in bound rates would leave the actual tariffs unchanged, especially for high tariff rates. A long list of sensitive products would likewise allow countries to exclude entirely the products with highest tariffs and therefore forego the largest potential trade gains from liberalization.”

Panagariya, “Liberalizing Agriculture”
Foreign Affairs (Dec. 2005)

Assuming full liberalization in the Doha Round, all developing countries are winners, with estimated gains for developing countries as a group ranging from \$45.6 billion to \$76 billion.

Polaski (Carnegie Endowment)
“Winners and Losers” (2006)