



ASEAN Joint Statement

By

His Excellency Mr. Sun Suon

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia  
to the United States Office, the World Trade Organization  
and other International Organizations at Geneva

At

Trade Negotiations Committee Meeting

(7 December 2012, Geneva)

**ASEAN Joint Statement**  
**Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) Meeting**  
**7 December 2012, Starting at 10 A.M., WTO**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman,**

I am speaking on behalf of ASEAN. We would like to thank DG Pascal Lamy for convening this formal TNC meeting. This TNC meeting provides us with an important opportunity to assess where we are and what steps we should take to move the DDA forward in the lead up to MC9 in December 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. ASEAN appreciates the DG's statement as well the update reports made by chairs of various negotiating groups on the state of play of the DDA negotiations.

ASEAN expresses its great concern that despite enormous efforts made by DG and chairs of various negotiating groups, as well as the continued engagement by members, progress on the DDA remains slow and 2012 has proven to be less productive than anticipated at MC8. In this regard, collective action is needed to revive the spirit of cooperation as we work on incremental deliverables for MC9 in Bali. ASEAN supports Indonesia's wish to contribute to the multilateral trading system by hosting a successful MC which can lead us in a new and incremental approach towards an eventual conclusion of the DDA.

In line with the guidance from MC8 to advance negotiations where progress can be achieved, ASEAN is confident that with exerted efforts, we can bring to Ministers in Bali a possible early harvest package, which contains a range of meaningful elements, based on paragraph 47 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration that are beneficial to members.

In this connection, we recognize the momentum in the areas of trade facilitation, agriculture as well as the good work of the CTDSS on the monitoring mechanism, the 28 Cancun proposals and the 6 agreement-specific proposals, which ASEAN is supportive of. Other related issues that could be the possible candidates for deliverables include the proposals on TRQ administration, export competition, and food security before the COA-SS. We are also mindful that other proposals could be tabled in due course.

**Mr. Chairman,**

ASEAN wants to emphasize that LDCs' issues contained in the MC8 political guidance should be revisited. ASEAN supports the granting of Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) market access to products from LDCs. This is an area that some ASEAN members have already accorded, and will continue to improve, in accordance with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. ASEAN has a strong regional focus on helping our three LDC members (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) to improve their capacity to trade.

In order to ensure a smooth preparation and successful outcomes for MC9, it is important for members and chairs of respective negotiating groups to work expeditiously taking into consideration the tight timeline that we have before Bali. Proposals on possible convergent areas for MC9 should be tabled as soon as possible. This will allow sufficient time for discussion and the building of consensus. We have to do so in good faith by tabling realistic and pragmatic proposals which match the prevailing appetite for meaningful outcomes at MC9. This does not mean that we will abandon other elements of the DDA after MC9. On the contrary, members should be prepared, in spirit of the single undertaking, to work on the remaining issues for delivery at subsequent Ministerial Conferences. This way, MC9 will truly live up to the commitment of MC8, to advance negotiations where progress can be achieved and not repeat what has been unsuccessful in the past.

Given the complex nature of the issues on the table, ASEAN is of the view that the decisions to be taken at MC9 should be negotiated and agreed by all members here in Geneva prior to the conference. To leave the negotiations to MC9 run a big risk of failure. In conclusion, ASEAN reiterates our strong commitment to actively engage in the preparatory process and contribute to a successful MC9 in Bali, Indonesia.

**Thank you**