



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

Meeting of Sub Committee on LDCs

(29 June 2012, Geneva)

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29 June 2012, at 9 a.m.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman,**

I am speaking on behalf of the ASEAN members. ASEAN would like to express our deep appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, the LDCs Group and all other involved members for their hard work, contributions and the flexibility that they have put into the negotiation process over the last six months in order to streamline, strengthen, and operationalize the 2002 LDC Accession Guidelines as mandated by our Ministers at MC8. The final text is now submitted to the Committee for adoption. ASEAN is pleased to join with other members to adopt the text, which will be submitted to the July General Council meeting for approval.

**Mr. Chairman,**

ASEAN believes that the benchmark on goods and services contained in the new guidelines will provide greater clarity and predictability for acceding LDCs to negotiate their market access commitments with members and at the same time provide flexibilities for them to pursue their development objectives. The new guidelines will also provide greater transparency on the LDC accession negotiations and bring more technical and financial support for the acceding LDCs to implement their reform programmes during and after the accession period.

Mr. Chairman, since the establishment of the WTO, some of ASEAN countries have gone through a long and painful accession negotiation process including the ongoing

accession of Lao PDR. We hope that what we agree today will facilitate the smoother accessions of LDCs to the WTO and enable them to fully capitalize the benefits from their membership of this organization.

The finalization of the guidelines is an important achievement, signalling WTO members' commitment to helping the LDCs integrate into the multilateral trading system. With this achievement, ASEAN hopes that other issues of interest to LDCs contained in the outcomes of MC8 will see similar progress.