



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

9th Working Party Meeting on the Accession of Yemen
to the World Trade Organization

(30 April 2012, Geneva)

Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of ASEAN. First of all, allow me to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening the 9th working party meeting on the Accession of Yemen to the WTO. I would like to warmly welcome the Yemen Delegation headed by H.E Dr. Saadaldeen Talib, Yemen Minister of Industry and Trade, to this important working party meeting.
2. Yemen, together with the Lao PDR, is one of two LDCs that are being prioritised for accession to the WTO in 2012. Accession to the WTO is crucial for helping to secure the process of economic reform and bringing about increased trade and economic development for LDCs. Hence, our Ministers had re-affirmed at the last Ministerial Conference in December 2011 the need to facilitate accessions, in particular those of of LDCs. ASEAN notes with appreciation that Yemen has made diligent efforts on both the multilateral and bilateral tracks in its accession process, including concluding nine bilateral market access agreements. Currently, like the Lao PDR, Yemen has only outstanding bilateral negotiation with one WTO Member, Ukraine.
3. ASEAN would like to encourage Ukraine to move expeditiously in concluding its bilateral negotiations with both Yemen and the Lao PDR, taking into due consideration their status as LDCs and their earnest efforts in carrying out the necessary domestic policy reforms in order to accede to the WTO and integrate in the multilateral trading system. It is our sincere hope that the Government of Ukraine can show flexibility in the outstanding issues under discussion. Delivering on the accessions of these two LDCs in 2012 would be a strong signal of the shared commitment by WTO members to helping the poorest and most vulnerable economies to benefit fully from the multilateral trading system.

4. In conclusion, ASEAN reiterates its full and continued support for the early conclusion of the accession of Yemen to the WTO in 2012 as a matter of priority for this organization. The Permanent Missions of ASEAN in Geneva stand ready to work with you, Mr. Chairman, and fellow members to achieve this objective.

Thank you.