

24 November 2005

**Draft text of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Environment**

1. We reaffirm the mandate in Paragraph 31 of the Doha Declaration aimed at enhancing the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment and welcome the significant work undertaken in the CTE in Special Session. We instruct Members to intensify the negotiations, without prejudging their outcome, on all parts of Paragraph 31 to fulfil the mandate.

2.\* We recognize the progress in the work under Paragraph 31(i) based on Members' submissions on the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations set out in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). We further recognize the work undertaken under Paragraph 31(ii) towards developing effective procedures for regular information exchange between MEA Secretariats and the relevant WTO committees, and criteria for the granting of observer status.

3. We recognize that recently more work has been carried out under Paragraph 31(iii) through numerous submissions by Members and discussions in the CTE in Special Session, including technical discussions, which were also held in informal information exchange sessions without prejudice to Members' positions. We instruct Members to [OPTION A: continue the work under Paragraph 31(iii) by developing a common understanding of the different approaches to the negotiations with the objective of reducing or, as appropriate, eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services, in a manner that enhances the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment and takes fully into account the interests of developing country Members.] [OPTION B: complete by ...2006 the work under Paragraph 31(iii) by identifying environmental goods for the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers in this area.]

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\* In this paragraph, some delegations would wish to see additional language with specific instructions from Ministers.