

To: Trade Ministers to the WTO

Cc: Pascal Lamy, WTO Director-General and Chair of the Trade Negotiations Committee
Ambassador Falconer, Chair, Committee of Agriculture, Special Session;
Ambassador Stephenson, Chair, Negotiating group on Market Access

17 July 2007

Subject: Doha is dead, time to rethink the multilateral trading system

Dear Trade Ministers,

As civil society organizations and social movements committed to building a multilateral trade system that is just, sustainable and democratic, we believe that the time has come to officially declare the Doha Round of the WTO negotiations dead and to provide the necessary space to re-think the kind of multilateral trade rules that are needed to create employment and achieve sustainable development.

It is now almost six years since the Doha Agenda was launched in November 2001. What has followed since then is a litany of setbacks and/or failures --- from the collapse of the Cancun Ministerial in 2003, followed by the July framework cobbled together in 2004, then the desperate moves of the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial to breathe new life into the Doha agenda, which led to the suspension of the WTO negotiations in 2006 and now the recent breakdown of the G-4 talks in Potsdam.

Doha was supposed to be the 'development' round. But what has transpired over the intervening six years has been quite the opposite. Instead of coming up with a set of multilateral trade rules designed to increase the capacities of developing countries to create new jobs, eliminate poverty and build sustainable economies, the Doha Agenda has been manipulated to primarily serve the interests of the northern industrialized powers to expand market access for their transnational corporations.

All the studies that have come out since 2005 ---from the World Bank, UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Tufts University and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) --- demonstrate that the current proposals for the Doha Agenda make developing countries, and particularly the poorest countries, the biggest losers.

Millions of people all over the world, including farmers, fisherfolk, workers and trade unionists, environmentalists, faith-based groups and other civil society organizations, have been denouncing the Doha talks as promoting a "corporate-driven" model of trade that pays little attention to peoples' rights and needs. Now, more than ever, world leaders must face up to the fact that the global trade regime has marginalized a vast array of communities and interests who have finally united to stop any further expansion of the system.

The Doha Agenda and Model have failed to increase the trust of WTO's membership, let alone the public it is supposed to serve. Around the world, people have informed themselves and popular opinion has changed to the point where the WTO is suffocating from a crisis of legitimacy. And, no effort by free trade champions to "better educate" the public or adopt "quick fixes" can reverse this reality. Declaring the death of Doha does not mean the end of world

trading system. Another multilateralism is possible, but not one that prioritizes the rights of corporations over the rights of people and the planet while reducing the power to self-govern.

We urge you to acknowledge the failure of the Doha Round now and call on you to institute a two year moratorium to provide the time and space necessary to re-think the model and process of global trade negotiations. It's time to go back home, and start a process of reflection and consultation with your peoples that can pave the way for a new and different model of multilateral trade. The only credible option now is to stimulate public discussion and debate with governments and civil society and social movements about creating alternative trade regimes that are people, development, and environment centered.

Signed by:

Organisation	Country
ActionAid International	International
Advocacy and Monitoring Network on Sustainable Development (AM-Net)	Japan
AITEC	France
Alianza Social Continental	Regional
Alliance for Democracy	United States
Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL)	Philippines
Andhra pradesh vyavasay vruthidarula union	India
ASC - Capítulo Peruano	Peru
Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM)	Hong Kong, SAR
AsiaDHRRA	Asia
Asian Farmers ' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)	Asia
Asian Indigenous Women's Network	Asia
ATTAC	Argentina
Attac Austria	Austria
ATTAC HUNGARY	Hungary
ATTAC Japan	Japan
Attac Norway	Norway
Attac Sweden	Sweden
Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET)	Australia
Blue Planet Project	International
California Fair Trade Coalition	United States
Campagna riforma Banca Mondiale Italy	Italy
Campaign for the Welfare State	Norway
Campaign GENOA 2001	Greece
Canadian Council for International Co-operation	Canada
Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives	Canada
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Canada
Caribbean Policy Development Center (CPDC)	Caribbean
Center for Encounter and active Non-Violence	Austria
Consumers Association of Penang	Malaysia

Convergencia de Movimientos de Pueblos de las Américas - COMPA	Regional
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)	The Netherlands
Council of Canadians	Canada
Development Fund	Norway
Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
EcoNews Africa	Kenya
Economic Justice and Development Organization (EJAD)	Pakistan
Europe solidaires sans frontières (ESSF)	France
Fair Italy	Italy
Fairfood	The Netherlands
Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs (FITUN)	Trinidad and Tobago
Focus on the Global South (Thailand, India, Philippines)	Asia
Food & Water Watch	United States
Foundation for Gaia	UK
Friends of the Earth	England, Wales, and Northern Ireland
Friends of the Earth Malaysia	Malaysia
Friends of the Earth US	United States
Hong Kong Alliance on Globalization	Hong Kong
Humanitarian Group for Social Development	Lebanon
IBON Foundation, Inc	Philippines
Iniciativa Paraguaya por la Integración de los Pueblos	Paraguay
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)	Switzerland
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)	
Inter Pares	Canada
KAFF(Korean Advanced Farmers Association)	Korea
Labour, Health and Human Rights Africa Development Centre, Ihahrdev	Nigeria
Mani Tese Italy	Italy
Manthan Adhyayan Kendra	India
Mesa Global	Guatemala
Millennium Solidarity	Switzerland
Norsk Bonde og småbrukarlag	Norway
OBSERVATORIO DE LA DEUDA EN LA GLOBALIZACIÓN	Cataluna
PAKISAMA	Philippines
Platform Aarde Boer Consument	The Netherlands
Polaris Institute	Canada
Pro Natura - Friends of the Earth Switzerland	Switzerland
Public Citizen	United States
Public Services International (PSI)	International
REBRIP - Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples	Brazil
RECALCA	Columbia
Redaktion Frauensolidarität	Austria
Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology	India
Réseau québécois sur l'intégration continentale	Québec, Canada

RMALC
Sierra Club US
Solidarité
South African Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu)
Südwind
Tebtebba
The Berne Declaration
The Oakland Institute
Tradewatch Italy
Transnational Institute (TNI)
Union syndicale Solidaires
URFIG
USC Canada
War on Want
WIDE
Worldview-The Gambia
X min Y Solidariteitsfonds

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