

Some of the key outcomes of the Doha discussions include:

- an ambitious three-year negotiating timetable;
- a commitment to agricultural reform in the areas of market access and subsidies;
- a firm timetable for negotiations on services;
- a reform of the rules on anti-dumping, subsidies, countervailing measures and regional trade agreements;
- greater access to non-agricultural markets;
- a reform of the dispute settlement system; and
- a breakthrough on environmental issues.

As well, there will be a focussed work program on the so-called "Singapore issues" — primarily, trade-related investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement. This work program may well lead to further negotiations in the future; an agreement on the first two issues is especially important if the trading system is to remain fully abreast of new developments in trading relations. Ultimately, if this round is successful, it will help to establish many of the trading rules for the early decades of the 21st century.

Equally important, perhaps, is the commitment made by the Doha participants to ensure that the new round of negotiations will be genuinely relevant to the developing countries. In this regard, the participants agreed that there would be:

- new working groups on issues of particular interest to developing countries — the trade/debt/finance linkages and the links between trade and technology, for example;

