



RESOLUTION ON THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE WTO

The ITUC General Council, meeting at its 2rd Session in Brussels on 20-22 June 2007

- CONCERNED** that the conclusion of the Doha Round on its current basis will not achieve the WTO's objectives of increasing living standards, raising employment and achieving sustainable growth and development, but instead stand to worsen poverty and inequalities and exacerbate abuses of fundamental workers' rights;
- DEPLORING** proposals on NAMA (Non-agricultural market access) in which developing countries are being pressured to accept very high tariff reductions that will lead to job losses in labour intensive industries, social disruption, pressure on wages and working conditions, and low tariff levels that stand to prevent them from developing their industries and diversifying their economies;
- RECOGNISING** that many developing countries are being asked to make far greater concessions than developed countries, and with reductions asked for in NAMA far higher than those in agriculture;
- DEMANDS** that developing countries not be pressured to trade off NAMA for agriculture and to make tariff reductions that will negatively affect their economies, employment and future industrial development, when they should be able to retain a sufficiently high coefficient in line with each country's level of development;
- INSISTS** that the paragraph 8 flexibilities in NAMA now under discussion should be expanded upon substantially, allowing both the exemption of certain tariff lines and for lower tariff cuts on other tariff lines, and for countries to be allowed to make changes in their choice of flexibilities over time based on future industrial development needs;
- CALLS FOR** a profound *ex ante* analysis by the WTO and ILO of the consequences of proposed Doha Round trade liberalisation on the level of decent work, as part of a fully-fledged work programme that incorporates attention to the impact of trade on the attainment of decent work,

including respect for core labour standards, and derives recommendations for national and intergovernmental action;

CALLS UPON

the ITUC secretariat and its affiliates, and regional trade union organisations, to increase action and lobbying on NAMA in support of developing country affiliates and the NAMA-11 trade unions, with particular attention to the time preceding a possible end of July NAMA agreement.
