

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Market Access

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MARKET ACCESS FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Negotiating Text on Liberalizing Trade in Remanufactured Goods

Communication from the United States

Addendum

The following communication, dated 27 February 2007, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

As affirmed in Annex B, Paragraph 26, of the Hong Kong Ministerial Text non-tariff barriers (NTBs) are an integral and important part of the non-agricultural market access (NAMA) negotiations. Consistent with paragraph 22 of the Ministerial Declaration, the United States now respectfully submits to WTO Members this draft negotiating text on liberalizing trade in remanufactured goods.

The United States first indicated its interest in negotiating NTBs affecting remanufactured goods in its revised indicative list, tabled in November 2004 (TN/MA/W46/Add.8/Rev.1). In two informal meetings in June and October of 2005, the United States, along with international firms engaging in remanufacturing, briefed Members on the concept of remanufacturing and discussed general questions and concerns. Both developed and developing country members actively participated in these meetings. On December 5, 2005, the United States tabled a concept paper that discusses the economic, environmental, and development benefits of remanufacturing and identifies the types of NTBs impeding trade in remanufactured goods (TN/MA/W/18/Add.11). Also on December 5, the United States tabled a progress report on discussions to date in the NAMA negotiating group related to remanufacturing (TN/MA/W/18/Add.10, TN/MA/W/18/Add.10/Corr.1).

The United States believes that levelling the playing field for trade in remanufactured goods presents Members with potential economic, environmental and development benefits and opportunities. As explained in the U.S. concept paper submitted 5 December, growth in remanufacturing resulting from liberalized trade in remanufactured goods will:

- Offer consumers and businesses worldwide greater access to low-cost, high quality products;
- Facilitate less consumption of energy and materials during production, and reduce waste;
- Extend the life of cores that would otherwise be consigned to landfills, thereby contributing to sound solid waste management and environmental stewardship;

- Help manufacturers of new goods fulfil warranty and servicing commitments for an extended period by ensuring the availability of high-quality remanufactured replacement parts;
- Create jobs, ranging from entry-level positions to those requiring highly skilled workers; and
- Further economic growth and development among Members by expanding opportunities to purchase advanced products at reduced prices, facilitating investment, increasing employment, and encouraging the transfer of technology and skills.

The United States looks forward to continued discussions with Members on this draft negotiating text and on the considerable benefits of remanufacturing. The United States is committed to an open and transparent process and is open to suggestions for improvement or additions to the draft negotiating text.

Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Remanufactured Goods

Members,

Recalling that pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Members agreed to negotiations aimed at reducing or as appropriate eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers on non-agricultural products;

Recognizing the objectives of protecting and preserving the environment, promoting sustainable development by preventing unnecessary waste and conserving energy and raw materials, raising standards of living, and expanding the production of and trade in goods;

Noting the development of remanufacturing as an important new field in manufacturing;

Considering the benefits to the environment and to consumers of the production of and trade in remanufactured goods;

Recognizing that remanufacturing takes place in developed and developing countries alike, creating jobs and facilitating economic growth;

Desiring to enhance opportunities for trade in remanufactured products by improving market access for those goods;

Mindful of Members' right to adopt measures for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or of the environment, consistent with the WTO Agreement,

Declare as follows:

1. Each Member's trade regime should evolve in a manner that enhances market access opportunities for remanufactured goods.
 2. Members should review their non-tariff measures with a view to ensuring that they do not impose prohibitions or restrictions on the importation of remanufactured goods that are proscribed by the multilateral agreements on trade in goods.
 3. Members shall meet periodically under the auspices of the Council on Trade in Goods to review Members' progress in enhancing market access for remanufactured goods, including by eliminating unnecessary non-tariff barriers on such goods. The reviews shall take fully into account the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed country participants.
 4. Members shall afford sympathetic consideration to any request for consultation from other Members concerning their measures affecting remanufactured goods. Such consultations shall be without prejudice to a Member's rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement.
 5. For purposes of this Declaration, ***remanufactured good*** means a non-agricultural good that is entirely or partially comprised of parts (i) that have been obtained from the disassembly of used goods; and (ii) that have been processed, cleaned, inspected, or tested to the extent necessary to ensure they are in original working condition.
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