

中野大臣政務官発言

第2分科会

Thank you Mr. Chair,

First, let me take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate my profound gratitude, on behalf of all the Japanese people, for the support extended by the Members in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. I would like to assure you all that, despite the damage by the earthquake, Japan did not, and will not change its firm commitment to enhancing multilateral trading system under the WTO.

Mr. Chair, with your indulgence, I would like to touch upon trade and development, the DDA, and anti-protectionism.

In the context of trade and development, further integration of LDCs into the multilateral trading system is crucial. Japan has already taken necessary measures including preferential treatment to LDCs, to comply with the Ministerial Decisions so far. Japan also welcomes a series of additional Ministerial Decisions made during this Ministerial Conference in favor of LDCs.

Japan is steadily implementing its Aid for Trade pledge, called “Development Initiative for Trade 2009,” to provide 12 billion US dollars within three years. Japan is determined to further promote “Aid for Trade” by sharing the expertise it has gained in Asia with other regions, Africa in particular.

Mr. Chair,

Now I would like to address DDA. Maintaining

and strengthening the credibility of the multilateral trading system is the most pressing issue, particularly now that the DDA is at an impasse. The risk of freezing or suspending the DDA, the primary engine of the WTO, would be enormous. We have to continue tenaciously working on the DDA, at least for the time being, even if it requires harsh and vigorous efforts.

We all share the view that the idea of a "fresh approach" is necessary. However, when it comes to concrete steps, discrepancies among the Members seem to be quite serious. We need boldly, but at the same time carefully address this issue. Japan intends to remain active in our path-finding work ahead.

Also, we are all well aware that a candid discussion is indispensable on the fundamental cause of the current stalemate, including the role and responsibility of the emerging economies within the

multilateral trading system.

Mr. Chair,

Lastly, let me touch upon anti-protectionism. In response to the current challenging economic situation, some Members chose the way of introducing protectionist measures on trade and investment. Such tendencies will endanger the very foundation of credibility of the multilateral trading system. Japan calls for WTO Members, [together with many like-minded Members gathered at the press conference on Thursday,] to make a strong commitment in line with the agreement reached at the G20 and APEC Leaders Meeting this year. These include the “standstill” commitment and the commitment to “rollback” any protectionist measures that may have risen, including WTO-consistent measures.

Thank you.