

**STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND**

MADE 16 JUNE 2004

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Eleventh Session**

**São Paulo, Brazil  
13-18 June 2004**

**ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL**

**NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT**

**BY HER EXCELLENCY DENISE ALMAO  
NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL**

**16 JUNE 2004**

Mr Chairman, Excellencies and fellow delegates.

It gives me great pleasure to address the 11th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on behalf of New Zealand.

In the words of the Maori people,

*Nou te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*

*With your basket of food and my basket of food we can feed the people*

*By sharing what we have to mutual advantage, our peoples will prosper*

May I first express our appreciation to the government and people of Brazil as hosts of this Conference.

Since UNCTAD X in Bangkok in 2000, we have seen significant progress in global efforts towards trade and development issues. The launch of the WTO Doha Development Round; the Monterrey Consensus; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the Declaration of Principles the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society; and the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010; each of these has demonstrated a firm international commitment to placing development, and developing country needs, at the heart of the global agenda.

At UNCTAD X we explored issues around making globalisation an effective

instrument for development. We also agreed on the Bangkok “Plan of Action”, which continues to guide our work today.

It is appropriate that we address at this Session the theme of enhancing the coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development. Our objective must be the successful integration of developing countries into the global economy.

This goal is consistent with the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey consensus of ensuring a more equitable distribution of the gains from globalisation. The theme for UNCTAD XI builds on the outcomes from Bangkok, allowing us to reflect on achievements four years on, and what work remains ahead in achieving the goals we have set.

*[Trade and the multilateral system]*

Mr Chairman, New Zealand's comments today will focus on the importance of the multilateral trading system in supporting and sustaining development at the national level.

Clearly trade is not an end in itself, but a means by which economic growth, full employment and poverty elimination can be achieved. Trade liberalisation and participation in international trade are important tools in meeting the common goals of growth and development.

In the last century - and particularly in the past 50 years - trade has helped lift millions of people out of poverty. It is estimated that substantial trade liberalisation could lift 300 million people out of poverty by 2015. Over the last fifteen years developing countries' share of global trade has risen from less than 20 percent to 30 percent. But clearly much remains to be done, if the benefits of globalization are to be evenly shared.

This Conference represents a timely opportunity to reaffirm the significance of the rules-based multilateral trading system embodied in the World Trade

Organisation. And to reaffirm the importance of a successful outcome to the Doha Round with a priority to agreement on frameworks by this July.

The WTO is a key instrument for harnessing the benefits of international trade. The Doha Round places developing country needs and interests at the heart of its Work Programme. The challenge is to ensure the Doha Round is truly a Development Round.

New Zealand supports the development emphasis of the Doha mandate. We favour fundamental reform of the world trading system. This will provide the major benefit to developing countries, especially through reducing the serious distortions to global agricultural markets. The Doha Development Agenda will set the framework for the multilateral trading system for at least the next 15-20 years. As such it is essential that current imbalances in world trade are addressed.

At the same time we recognise the special situation of developing countries, and particularly least developed countries. It is all too clear that the effects of trade reform differ not only *between* developing countries, but also *within* developing countries. This requires coherence between national development strategies and the development of the rules-based trading system. We therefore support appropriately designed and targeted special and differential treatment. We also support the provision of technical assistance and capacity building to enable developing countries to cope with the negotiations and to take advantage of the outcomes.

The WTO is the only multilateral rules-based trading system in the global economy. WTO agreements and the binding dispute settlement system help to ensure that the trading interests of large and small countries alike are respected. The WTO provides a fair playing field on which all Members can advance and defend their trade interests. The alternative cannot be contemplated – the rule of the jungle – where the strong would always prevail over the weak and vulnerable.

Mr Chairman, nothing can equal the returns to the world economy from genuine progress in trade liberalisation at the multilateral level. These gains far outweigh the financial flows from development assistance.

For this reason we are keen to see greater policy coherence between trade policy and development assistance. Otherwise there are limits on the effectiveness of trade in promoting sustainable development. Especially where the policies of developed countries are biased against the interests of developing countries. Policy coherence needs to be a working principle within governments, and between governments.

The mandate governing the Doha Development Agenda seeks to ensure that trade liberalisation enhances developing countries' socio-economic development. The DDA responds to demands for a more development-focused multilateral trading system. A system that supports developing country interests in areas such as improved access to markets, special and differential treatment in the implementation of agreements, support for capacity building and negotiation arrangements which take account of developing country priorities, capacity constraints, vulnerabilities and other national conditions. New Zealand has a keen interest in seeing that the negotiations and outcomes of this Round deliver on the promise of the Doha declaration.

New Zealand wholly supports proposals designed to enable developing countries to participate fully in the global trading system so they can maximise the benefits that can flow from trade liberalisation. In this we see a valuable role for UNCTAD.

*[Role of UNCTAD]*

Mr Chairman, these Sessions provide a timely opportunity for UNCTAD Members to consider how best the organisation can deliver on its mandate.

New Zealand recognises that UNCTAD has a significant role through its three major pillars of building consensus, providing research and policy analysis on trade and development issues, and providing technical assistance for developing countries. UNCTAD can help contribute to a better understanding of the development process and the factors that will result in a more even distribution of gains from world trade.

Others have noted that trade policies need to be embedded in a coherent national development strategy – they are not a substitute for it. UNCTAD's capacity building and education initiatives have a clear place in this process.

UNCTAD is the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade, development, finance, technology and sustainable development. It is also important that UNCTAD perform as effectively and efficiently as it can in delivering on its mandate. This requires the organisation to contribute to and participate fully in the wider reforms of the United Nations system. New Zealand fully supports moves by UNCTAD to take on a results-oriented approach to its work.

UNCTAD has a role in ensuring a well integrated and coherent approach to trade and development issues amongst the international institutions. In this manner, UNCTAD should look to complement the work of other relevant institutions. We also look to UNCTAD XI to lend its endorsement and support for the development objectives of the ongoing WTO Doha negotiations.

I shall conclude by acknowledging the invaluable contribution of Ambassador Sha of China in the preparations for UNCTAD XI.

Mr Chairman, you have our assurances that New Zealand will work constructively and cooperatively towards the goals we set ourselves at this Conference.