

Statement by Li Enheng of China at the TNC
(30 July 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

After 10 days of day & night hard work by ministers under your guidance, China is as disappointed as many others with the setback we are confronted for the negotiations. We thank you very much and highly value the tremendous efforts you have made during the whole process. Our thanks also go to the chairs of the negotiating bodies of agriculture and NAMA who have been engaged in assisting the Chair of the TNC for solutions to the outstanding issues discussed in the Green Room. We also appreciate the contributions made by Members, including the great majority of developed ones among them, for a possible balanced and development-oriented outcome of the agriculture and NAMA modalities.

On the substance in general terms, Mr. Chairman, China would like to reiterate the importance of development dimension that the round should deliver, without which it could never come to a successful conclusion. In this regard, in addition to all the best efforts that Members have made and will continue to make, the major developed Members need to play in particular genuine leadership in the negotiations rather than in any unhelpful activities with a view to shifting responsibilities onto others, including through the media.

Mr. Chairman, China is in full agreement with the assessment you and many Members made on the state of play of the negotiations and will go along with any proposal you or Members will make specifically on the arrangement of our future work as far as it can facilitate an early and successful conclusion of the round. For the sake of the improvement and strengthening of the multilateral trading system, and the healthy evolution of the world economy at large, Members should not give up our efforts. We entirely support your judgment that all the progress we have made should be preserved instead of being wasted and that we should resume our work as early as possible on those issues still outstanding. China will as always continue to be fully committed and engaged constructively in our future negotiations until the round comes to a complete success.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.