

A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

International Business Stakeholder Petition to National Leaders and WTO Members on the Doha Development Agenda

April 30, 2004*

As business stakeholders in the global economy and representatives of key economic drivers of worldwide trade, investment and employment, we call upon our national leaders and all WTO members to exert leadership this year to achieve meaningful progress on the Doha Development Agenda and to conclude this round of WTO negotiations as soon as possible;

We firmly believe that a strong, multilateral rules-based trading system and the advancement of multilateral trade liberalization are essential to promoting growth, opportunity and prosperity in every economy, and the Doha Development Agenda is a once in a generation opportunity of enormous promise and relevance;

While each of our organizations has politically sensitive issues and economic concerns at home, we stand united in our support for reaching a timely, ambitious, and balanced outcome to the Doha Development Agenda centered on providing more open and predictable conditions for trade in agriculture, industrial goods and services, with built in flexibility especially for poorer developing countries;

We believe that major forward progress this year towards a timely and meaningful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda will strengthen the WTO's credibility as a leading force for eliminating trade barriers and promoting trade and economic cooperation worldwide;

We look to our trade ministers and other government officials to fulfill their responsibilities and exert joint leadership in achieving progress this year by, above all, agreeing on how to move the negotiations to the next level on agriculture, services and goods. As part of that process, we urge our national governments to conclude the necessary framework agreements;

We recognize that fundamental reform and market opening of agricultural markets are of vital importance to developing countries and to the ultimate success of the Doha Development Agenda. We urge the elimination of all forms of export subsidies and of trade distorting domestic support, concomitant with substantial liberalization of major agricultural markets worldwide;

*** Additional endorsements added on May 17, 2004.**

We urge national leaders to achieve bold outcomes on industrial goods and services, particularly among developed and middle income countries, including a strategy to effectively address non-tariff barriers to trade. Agreement on improved trading rules, including trade facilitation and enhanced transparency provisions, alongside continued vigorous capacity building and technical assistance for poorer developing countries are also essential to realizing the full potential of the Doha Development Agenda.

We are committed to supporting a successful outcome to the Doha Development Agenda within our respective countries and to achieving results this year towards these vital objectives.

Signatories:

**American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union
American Chamber of Commerce – Hanoi (Vietnam)
Asociacion Nacional de Industrias de Honduras
Australia Food and Grocery Council
Australian Industry Group
Australian Services Roundtable
Business Roundtable (USA)
Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance
Canadian Cattlemen’s Association
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Canadian Council of Chief Executives
Canadian Council for International Business
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
Confederação Nacional da Indústria (Brazil)
Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association
Coalition of Service Industries (USA)
Coordinadora de Organismos Empresariales de Comercio Exterior (Mexico)
Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand
Emergency Committee for American Trade (USA)
EuroCommerce (Europe)
European Services Forum
Federación de Cámaras y Asociaciones Industriales Centroamericanas
y República Dominicana (Central America and the Dominican Republic)
Grain Growers of Canada
Grocery Manufacturers of America (USA)
Japan Services Network
National Association of Manufacturers (USA)
National Foreign Trade Council (USA)
National Grain Trade Council (US/Canada)
National Pork Producers Council (USA)**

National Retail Federation (USA)
New Zealand Food and Grocery Council
Nippon Keidanren (Japan)
Retail Council of Canada
The American Chamber of Commerce in Australia
The United States Council for International Business
UNICE¹ The Union of Employers' and Industrial Confederations of Europe
US-ASEAN Business Council (USA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Wheat Export Trade Education Committee (USA)

¹ AIP-CIP, BDA-BDI, CBI, CEOE, Confindustria, DA-DI, Economiesuisse-UPS, FEDIL, SEF, FII-CIE, IBEC, IV, MFOI, NHO, OEB, PT-TT, SN, TISK-TUSIAD, VBO/FEB, VNO-NCW, ANIS, AZZZ, SR, BIA, CEHIC, ETTK, PKPP, SPCR, LPK, AES, HUP, LDDK.