



RESOLUTION 5

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

Submitted by Australia, Indonesia, Japan and Republic of Korea

THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM:

Noting the importance of interdependence and the deepening of globalization and trade liberalization in the international community and the current trends towards economic integration in various regions of the world and the benefits accruing from these trends in promoting stability and alleviating poverty;

Reaffirming the important role, which the WTO plays in promoting and strengthening the multilateral trading system and welcoming the results of the Doha Ministerial discussions on global trade liberalization at the 4th Ministerial Conference of the WTO including the agreement on the mandate and timeframe for the Doha Development Agenda;

Welcoming the accession of China and Chinese Taipei to the WTO, which will transform it into a global organisation;

Reaffirming the need for the WTO to consider the various opinions of developed and developing countries alike in order to bring about a more equitable trading system;

Recognising that the discrepancy between developed and developing countries is greatly influenced by the burden of foreign debts such as occur in Latin America, Asia and Africa and that the rescheduling, reduction or writing off of such foreign debts by creditor nations would be a constructive contribution to the interaction between developed and developing countries in international intercourse;

Recalling that in the Leaders' Declaration of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in November 2001, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in Asia-Pacific by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies; and

Observing that the world is suffering from economic malaise which has worsened as a consequence of the 11 September 2001 tragedy both directly and indirectly;

RESOLVES TO:

1. Render the strongest support for an open, equitable and rules-based Multilateral Trading System, which is essential to reduce barriers to global trade, facilitate the growth of international trade flows and global economic growth and ensure that the benefits of trade reform and the resultant economic growth are shared between developed and developing countries to the benefit of all, welcome the results of the Doha Ministerial discussions and call upon APPF countries to promote trade liberalization improving, clarifying and strengthening WTO rules particularly in relation to Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Agreements;

2. Welcome the accession of China and Chinese Taipei to the WTO and hope that they will expand trade under WTO rules and call upon APPF member countries to cooperate with non-member countries for their earliest possible entry into the WTO;
3. Call upon all countries and regions to regard existing and emerging regional trade agreements as complementary to the multilateral trading system with the WTO as the central force consistent with WTO rules and discipline, and to develop them in a way that will benefit the entire world by increasing economic growth and development;
4. Urge all parliaments to recognize that negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda will affect peoples of all states, and strongly call for parliaments, as the representative body of the people, to remain actively engaged in the inter-governmental negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda;
5. Welcome substantial development of establishing a network of bilateral swap arrangements in the East Asian region based on the Chiang Mai Initiative, agreed on the Finance Ministers Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea (ASEAN + 3), May 2000, and call upon countries and nations concerned to make use of regional fora such as ASEAN + 3, APEC etc, to encourage the exchange of opinions concerning economic situations and policy issues in order to achieve economic development and stability in Asia-Pacific region;
6. Support the principle of open regionalism meaning that trade agreements should be open to other economies willing to take on those obligations;
7. Support the statement made at the Thirteenth APEC Ministerial Meeting in Shanghai on 18 October 2001, reaffirming the commitment of APEC to launch a new round of negotiations of the WTO to promote sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region; and
8. Call for Members of the WTO to take into consideration the different industry structures of Members and such non-trade concerns as food security and environment protection in ensuring that the opinions of all negotiating parties are harmoniously balanced in the agricultural negotiations.

January 8, 2002, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA