



International Conference on  
**Upcoming Ninth WTO Ministerial: Securing the LDCs Deliverables**  
*Dhaka, Bangladesh; 25-27 October 2013*

Inaugural Plenary  
**Bali Ministerial: The State of Play**  
25 October 2013

**Comments from *H E Eloi Laourou***  
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative  
Embassy and Permanent Mission of Benin in Geneva

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Inaugural Plenary: Bali Ministerial: The State of Play

Comments from:

- **H.E.M Eloi LAOUROU**, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Benin in Geneva (Panelist)

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- **Hon'ble Minister for Commerce of Bangladesh;**
  - **Chair, Ambassador BHATTACHARYA;**
  - **Professor, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD);**
  - **Ambassador ESKJAER of Denmark;**
  - **Dr Fahmida KHATUN, Research Director, CPD, Dhaka;**
  - **Ambassador Nicolas IMBODEN, Executive Director of IDEAS CENTRE;**
  - **Madam NALUNGA, Country Director of SEATINI;**
  - **Excellencies;**
  - **Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations, Universities, Research Centers, Civil Societies Organizations;**
  - **Ladies and Gentlemen;**
1. First of all, allow me to express my sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, the Representatives of the Centre of Policy Dialogue (CPD) and its other partners for inviting us to this important and timely dialogue conference, and for the excellent arrangements made, and hospitality provided to us.
  2. We are at a critical phase of the Doha Round negotiations, as the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Bali (Indonesia) is close, almost less than forty (40) days from today, and we seem so far from concrete achievements in the negotiation process.
  3. Trade is known as an engine that has the potential of promoting growth, employments, revenues, development and combating poverty if its rules, disciplines and mechanisms are well designed, implemented and controlled.
  4. We are embarked in this task since the launching of the Doha Round, in November 2001, almost 12 years.

5. We, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), we still have faith in the potential of trade, and consider that we shall secure deliverables.  
But, where do we stand now in the negotiations, and particularly the LDCs?
6. Negotiations currently are being carrying on these three areas, according to the agenda planned, up to now, for Bali Conference: **(i)** Agriculture (G-33 proposal on public stockholdings for food security, domestic food aid purposes, G-20 proposals on Tariff Quota Administration and export competition **(ii)** Development issues (Special and Differential Treatment, 28 Cancun proposals , the LDCs' Package, and **(iii)** Trade Facilitation.
7. For LDCs, the package to be delivered comprises currently: **(1)** the operationalization of the Hong Kong 2005 Decision on Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) market access for products exported by LDCs, (ref. Annex F of Hong Kong Decision); **(2)** a decision to be adopted on Preferential Rules of Origin to make them simple, flexible and transparent; **(3)** the Cotton issue; the **(4)** the implementation of the services waiver; (5) the operationalization of the Decision on TRIPs.
8. The assessment made and the sentiment got are that too much technical work remains. Also, from different sides, political will and engagement is needed. We must speed up the process, before Bali, smoothen the process in Bali, to deliver balanced results in the issues that are being negotiated, and between them, particularly for LDCs, which are the most vulnerable.
9. It is also important to underline that the future of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) will depend mostly on the outcome to be achieved in Bali.
10. We remain confident.

I thank you!