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NOTA DELLA SANTA SEDE SULLA PREPARAZIONE DELLA CONFERENZA MINISTERIALE DI DOHA: *LE DIMENSIONI DELLO SVILUPPO NELL'ORGANIZZAZIONE MONDIALE DEL COMMERCIO*

Dal 9 al 13 novembre è prevista a Doha (Qatar) la IV^a Conferenza Ministeriale dell'Organizzazione Mondiale del Commercio (OMC/WTO).

Nella situazione odierna, le politiche dell'OMC influiscono sulla possibilità dei Paesi in via di sviluppo di garantire alle loro popolazioni, e specialmente ai poveri, un progresso economico e umano duraturo. Da diverse parti si auspica che questa Conferenza Ministeriale ponga la dimensione dello sviluppo al centro della riflessione dell'OMC e dei suoi membri. In particolare si auspica che la Conferenza Ministeriale offra un nuovo slancio verso lo sviluppo di un sistema multilaterale di commercio più equo e partecipativo.

La Santa Sede, desiderosa di portare un suo contributo specifico al dibattito in corso circa il progetto di Dichiarazione finale della Conferenza Ministeriale, ha diffuso una Nota sulle *Dimensioni dello sviluppo*

nell'Organizzazione Mondiale del Commercio.

Partendo da quell'importante principio etico enunciato da Sua Santità Giovanni Paolo II nell'Enciclica *Centesimus Annus*, in cui si afferma che "l'economia è solo un aspetto e una dimensione della complessa attività umana", si propongono alcune indicazioni per far sì che le politiche di liberalizzazione del commercio internazionale vengano meglio poste al servizio della dignità della persona umana e alla costituzione di una vera famiglia tra le nazioni, fondata sulla solidarietà.

Riportiamo di seguito il testo della Nota che è stata distribuita alle autorità dell'OMC e a tutte le Missioni Diplomatiche accreditate presso la sede dell'Organizzazione a Ginevra, e al Corpo Diplomatico accreditato presso la Santa Sede.

DEVELOPMENT DIMENSIONS OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

A note of the Holy See on the preparation for the
Doha Ministerial Conference

The Doha Conference is planned to take place at a moment in which the world is challenged by new tensions. It is thus more urgent than ever to ensure that the outcomes of the Conference mark a clear step on the path to a new and more inclusive vision of world trade, in which all can take part effectively on an even footing. This can only be achieved by gestures of flexibility and solidarity, recognizing also that the enhanced development of the poorer countries is a contribution to global economic progress, international security and peace.

Failure to give such a clear signal can only worsen already deep-felt sentiments of exclusion which many communities harbour today. The credibility of the WTO and of a universal multilateral trading system is at stake.

Within this general framework, the Holy See would like to draw attention to some factors that the Ministerial Conference in Doha should address in order to give greater focus and impetus to the WTO's developmental agenda in the future, while maintaining focus on its specific trade-related mandate.

1. Unsatisfactory progress for the poorest countries

Despite the opportunities offered by the Uruguay Round the least developed countries and other poor countries still have only a marginal and diminishing share in world trade. Progress in the equitable integration of the poorest countries into the global market has been unsatisfactory. It is essential to address the factors that have hindered them from achieving the hoped-for benefits from trade liberalization.

A fair integration of the least developed countries into the global economy will only be achieved by an integrated approach. Trade liberalization is a means, and must be implemented in such a way that there is sufficient flexibility to adopt fundamental development measures. The goal and dimension of development must be central in WTO rules and in the assessment of proposals.

Fair trade relations certainly constitute an essential component of economic and human development, but, as Pope John Paul II has stressed, "economic freedom is only one element of human freedom" and "the economy is only one aspect and one dimension of the whole of human activity" (*Centesimus Annus*, n. 39). Economic life cannot be absolutized. Economic activities must be pursued within the broader context of human development, the promotion of human rights and especially the overarching policies and targets of the family of nations aimed at eliminating poverty.

2. The Development Framework of the WTO

Trade liberalization and developmental concerns are not only not incompatible, moreover, they should go hand in hand.

The opening paragraphs of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization set out the fundamental framework within which its activities in the field of trade and economic endeavour are to be conducted.

This framework requires the Organization to look at its activities within the context of a broad range of human, social and environmental aims, which have the objective of sustainable development.

It recognizes the need to ensure that the developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.

The WTO is asked to enhance the means for achieving development at the disposal of the developing countries in a manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development.

3. Eliminate trade-distorting protections

The application of the WTO's rules has resulted in a wide opening of the domestic markets of developing countries, often with heavy adjustment costs. The wealthier countries, however, have been able to maintain strong legal protections precisely in those economic areas in which poor countries could be competitive (e.g. agriculture, textiles and other labour intensive industries).

Even where quota-free and duty-free market access has been widely opened to the least developed countries, many developed countries continue to prolong high levels of protection especially in agriculture and textiles, claiming that they need additional time to adjust. They thus constrain poorer countries to share the burden of their own domestic protection through unfavourable trade conditions and dumping measures.

Both justice and long-term economic efficiency require that the international trade system restore to all its participants the highest achievable equality of opportunity by eliminating, within the shortest possible period, trade and production distorting export subsidies, and providing ample market access on a sure and predictable basis to products in which the poorest countries have comparative advantage. It is important to be attentive to the possibility of new protectionist measures being introduced, disguised under various titles.

4. The developing countries should adopt consistent development policies

The developing countries should, however, avoid the temptation of taking a crude protectionist path. There have been occasions in the past in which protection of certain sectors, at times of vital national importance, has been advantageous in specific circumstances and for a determinate period of time. This can still be true today. However, a correct balance must be attained, keeping in mind that in today's circumstances, generally, protectionism can be of only limited value to developing economies.

The developing countries need rather a solid and viable path to free trade that permits them to enter into an equitable dialogue with international markets. The existing WTO special and differential treatment principle in favour of the least developed countries should, therefore, be fully implemented and operationalized and new measures should be considered as an integral part of future negotiations. Likewise the application of the "generalized system of preferences" should be improved.

The food security concerns of net food importing countries and of the least developed countries are obviously of legitimate concern and must be addressed in trade negotiations. It has been proposed that a specific "development box" to address such concerns should be elaborated. The suggestion merits close attention. Careful research should be carried out in order to provide a clear analysis of the concrete effects of implementation on food prices and food security for the poorest countries.

5. Implementation and technical assistance

The rigid application of the same rules to economies that start out from different development levels and different capacities tends to create further inequities and asymmetries. It is thus essential to address urgently the uneven

trade capacities of countries. For a free trade system to be fair, it must not only guarantee legal equality among countries, it must also redress, as much as possible, the disadvantages, in terms of economic and negotiating power, of less industrialized economies and of commodity producer economies.

The accession process for poorer countries should be tailored to their special economic conditions and commensurate with the level of development. Due extensions should be given to the transitional periods for implementation when needed.

WTO technical assistance must be improved and sustainable financial support for such assistance be solidly integrated into the budget, at levels sufficient for the task in hand. Such technical assistance should focus, in the first place, on assisting developing countries to implement existing WTO obligations. In those areas where developing countries face particular and persistent problems in implementing their obligations, a systematic exercise to review, to apply more flexibility and, where necessary, to amend the existing rules or procedures should be carried out.

The Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to least developed countries should be fully operationalised and financed, and restraint should be used in the application of the dispute settlement procedures against the least developed countries and other very poor countries.

Beyond the implementation subjects, poor countries also require urgent technical assistance from appropriate agencies, to help broaden and diversify their production and export base and their trade promotion efforts.

6. Intellectual property

The present trade scenario has forced the developing countries to divert vital resources to the implementation of new international duties, especially concerning the protection of intellectual property. It would be important to review therefore - in the light of the experience of the past few years - the new intellectual property rights framework with the view of achieving a better balance of results between the interests of developed and developing countries. Particular attention should be given to areas in which the life of people itself could be at stake, as in the case of essential medicines and food security. If needed, the system should be adapted.

While recognising that there is a limit to the number of special exemptions

which a unified trade system can integrate, a specific set of exceptions to general rules could be tailored, where necessary, in order to ensure that no trading interest could hinder the most essential aspects of the right to life. In the meantime the fullest possible flexibility should be shown under existing WTO rules.

7. Increased transparency

The majority of the members of the WTO are developing countries that have as much - or even greater - stake as the developed countries in a truly fair and balanced multilateral system. The developing countries must be able to attain adequate means to voice their interests and exercise their rights - The WTO must portray itself clearly as a trade body working for the interests of all countries.

The very nature of a free trade system entails the full ownership of the trade decisions by all the participating States. Such ownership should be enhanced by rules attentive to the experience of the poorest countries and which should guarantee transparent and inclusive decision-making structures. The special negotiating difficulties of the least developed countries, and especially of countries which can afford only a minimal representation at the WTO headquarters, must be continuously addressed.

8. Towards a broader development agenda

Naturally, the World Trade Organization cannot address all the development challenges of today's world. Attempts to overstretch its mandate should, indeed, be resisted.

A well-prepared and balanced trade negotiation, which goes hand in hand with continuous verification of the ability of the poorest countries to implement past and new WTO agreements, is an important element in a broad new development scenario, in which different international organizations can mutually enhance one another's contribution, so that other outstanding issues - such as the protection of fundamental labour standards, environmental protection and the establishment of global anti-trust norms - can be adequately addressed in the most appropriate forum.

[01752-02.01] [Original text: English]

INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA QUARTA COMMISSIONE DELL'ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELLE NAZIONI UNITE

Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento che l'Osservatore Permanente della Santa Sede presso l'O.N.U., S.E. Mons. Renato Raffaele Martino, ha pronunciato ieri alla Quarta Commissione dell'Assemblea Generale delle Nazioni Unite *"on Item 87 - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine"*.

• INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS. RENATO R. MARTINO

Mr. Chairman:

My Delegation comes before you this year with an exceptionally heavy heart. The events of 11 September seem to have cast a dark shadow upon the life of this city which in turn has a profound effect throughout the world.

However this is but one tragedy which makes my Delegation heavy of heart. Although they were founded as temporary agencies, UNRWA and the Pontifical Mission for Palestine have labored to assist the Palestinian Refugees for over fifty years.

Each year we come before this Committee with an intervention and I am sorry to say that each year our observations are the same. Violence in Israel and the Occupied Territories continues to take innocent lives. His Holiness Pope John Paul II traveled as a pilgrim to this region, the birthplace of Christianity. His was a pilgrimage of hope to share in the sufferings of the people of the region and to speak on behalf of the recognition of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all peoples. "We know", His Holiness stated during his recent pilgrimage to Syria, following in the steps of St. Paul, "that real peace can only be achieved if there is a new attitude of understanding and respect between the peoples of the region, between the followers of the three Abrahamic religions...It is important that there be an evolution in the way the peoples of the region see one another and that at every level of society the principles of peaceful coexistence be taught and promoted." (*Pope John Paul II, Remarks upon arrival in Damascus, Syria, 5 May 2001*).

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation wishes to point out that when normal conditions of life are not granted, the security of all is threatened. In particular, I note the incursions into the Christian towns of Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Beit Jala. The Pontifical University in Bethlehem has suffered shell damage as well as the Patriarchal Seminary, the Pontifical School for the Deaf and the Holy Family Hospital. Numerous houses in these towns have sustained damage from artillery and as a result, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine has been making emergency grants to aid with repairs or for the relocation of the residents.

Most recently, in response to the violence of 20 October, His Holiness Pope John Paul II stated: "At the present time there is no lack of threatening situations which fill all of mankind with anxiety. It is with deep sadness that I receive painful and worrisome news from Bethlehem, as well as from the cities of Beit Jala and Beit Sahour. War and death have even arrived at the square of the Basilica of the Nativity of Our Lord. In the name of God, I repeat once again: violence is for everyone a path of death and destruction which dishonors the holiness of God and the dignity of man. I express to the families who are victims of violence my closeness in their pain, in prayer

and in hope. They have the gift of living in the Holy Land, land which is holy for Jews, Christians and Muslims. It must be everyone's commitment to make this finally a land of peace and fraternity." (Pope John Paul II, Angelus message, St. Peter's Square, 21 October, 2001).

Even with the heightened tensions in the areas, I am pleased to report that the students of the Pontifical University of Bethlehem completed the extended school year with graduation on 21 July 2001. Besides that, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine was able to build and open "Brotherhood Park", a playground and family park in Gaza City. In Bethlehem the Marie Doty Park was opened for the city's children and their families.

Together with the assistance of European agencies: Misereor, Missio, Kinderhilfe Bethlehem and the Archdiocese of Cologne as well as the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine has been able to institute and fund "Labor Intensive Programs". In order to put the unemployed to work, projects which will benefit the community at large are sponsored. Schools, public as well as private, are painted and shared public areas are cleared of refuse and debris.

The local facilities provide the material resources needed to do the work and the project's funds pay a just wage to the laborer. Work is done in collaboration with local agencies such as the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, *Caritas Internationalis* and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Much more work remains to be accomplished by the Pontifical Mission for Palestine and UNRWA with and for the refugee population.

Beyond addressing these significant humanitarian needs noted above, Mr. Chairman, it is the hope of my Delegation that any solution found for the multifaceted problems of the region will include the question of the Holy City of Jerusalem. In light of the numerous incidents of violence and the rigors of imposed closures, the Holy See renews its consistent call for "...internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the Holy Places by the faithful of all religions and nationalities". (*A/Res/ES 10-2, 5 May 1997*). Current levels of violence have caused pilgrims to stay away from the Holy Land thus imposing severe economic penalties on all the people of the region. I also note that the local population does not have free access to their shrines and holy places.

Mr. Chairman, my Delegation appeals for greater international solidarity and the political will to meet the challenge of the seemingly unending violence in the region. The arms manufacturers of the world have the region awash in weapons. These weapons help to fuel the fire of violence throughout the entire area.

Further, my Delegation appeals to the international community to assist in bringing a just resolution to the differences between the peoples of the Holy Land who are all cousins in the Abrahamic faith. Only a just peace will bring genuine security to all the peoples of the region.

Mr. Chairman, may I conclude my statement with the recent remarks of Pope John Paul II as he completed the first part of his pilgrimage, retracing the steps of St. Paul: "But for the door of peace to open, fundamental issues of truth and justice, of rights and responsibilities must be resolved. The world looks to the Middle East with hope and concern, expectantly awaiting every sign of constructive dialogue. Many serious obstacles remain, yet the first step towards peace must be a steadfast conviction that a solution is possible within the parameters of international law and the resolutions of the United Nations. I appeal once more to all the peoples involved, and to their political leaders, to recognize that confrontation has failed and will always fail. Only a just peace can bring the conditions needed for the economic, cultural and social development to which the peoples of the region have a right." (*Pope John Paul II, Farewell Ceremony, International Airport of Damascus, 8 May 2001*).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

DICHIARAZIONE DEL DIRETTORE DELLA SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE, DR. JOAQUÍN NAVARRO-VALLS

Il Direttore della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, Dr. Joaquín Navarro-Valls, ha rilasciato questa mattina ai giornalisti la seguente dichiarazione:

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto oggi il Sig. Yasser Arafat, Presidente dell'Autorità Palestinese, venuto per informare sulla preoccupante situazione nei Territori palestinesi, con particolare riferimento agli ultimi tragici eventi che hanno interessato anche i luoghi santi della cristianità. Il Presidente ha palesato, inoltre, il desiderio di pace delle popolazioni palestinesi, condannando pure ogni forma di terrorismo.

Sua Santità, nell'esprimere cordoglio per le numerose vittime dell'interminabile spirale di violenza, ha rinnovato l'appello affinché tutti abbandonino le armi e riprendano i negoziati. Il Santo Padre ha ripetuto la ben nota posizione della Santa Sede che privilegia il dialogo, l'adempimento del diritto internazionale, senza dimenticare il necessario impegno della comunità internazionale per assicurare ai popoli della regione rispetto reciproco e sicurezza per tutti.

[01753-01.01] [Testo originale: Italiano]
