

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

114, RUE DE LAUSANNE - 12 11 GENEVA 21 - SWITZERLAND
TEL. (41-22) 739 51 00 FAX (41-22) 739 54 60

MIKE MOORE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

11 January 2002

Dear colleague,

I am writing to thank you for your interest in the 4th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 14 November 2001. I should also like to express appreciation for your positive contribution to this Conference.

Substantial progress was made in Doha and I welcome the important new negotiating mandate given by Ministers to the WTO. I particularly welcome the direction they have provided on many issues of mutual concern such as development, access to medicines and the environment. The Doha Development Agenda calls for a far-reaching set of negotiations to be completed within three years. The timetable is tight but it can be achieved. It requires WTO Members and the Secretariat to begin work immediately.

I am pleased to report the momentum is continuing. WTO Members have already selected Mexico as the venue for the next Ministerial meeting. This means our hosts can begin preparations well in advance. Members have also approved a significant increase in the WTO budget that will allow us to increase spending on technical assistance in 2002 by around 80 percent. This will enable the Secretariat to provide greater levels of assistance to the Membership. Later this month, Members will consider as well appropriate mechanisms for advancing the substantive negotiations. Within the Secretariat, I have re-deployed our resources better to reflect the priorities of the Doha Development Agenda. I have also introduced initiatives aimed at efficiency gains and cost savings. My attached Informal New Year's Message gives further details of WTO activities in the period since Doha.

2001 was a year of important lessons and insights. The Doha success was built on a preparatory process that was transparent and inclusive. Members are determined to carry these principles into our future work. We must also ensure all our Members, large and small, rich and poor, are given every assistance and opportunity to participate fully in our work.

Civil Society Coalition
Manon Riss
P.O. Box 19367
Washington DC 20036
USA

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I believe we must also continue exploring ways to enhance our dealings with civil society. In this regard, I am planning a major Symposium in late April this year that will explore concerns expressed by some Ministers in Doha on our relations with the public. Already, useful suggestions for the agenda of this Symposium are emerging and I would welcome any further ideas you may wish to offer.

Once again, may I thank you for your interest in the Doha Conference and wish you every success in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

Mike Moore

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