

Our key objectives in the region are to help accelerate economic growth, foster functioning and effective states, invest in people and promote regional stability and cooperation. We work closely with our partners in the region to support their own sustainable development efforts. For example, we are working with Kiribati to strengthen public sector management, with Cambodia to increase the incomes of the rural poor, and with Bangladesh to improve food security.

But Madame President, ODA on its own will never be enough. Ultimately, poverty reduction will be driven by economic growth, led by the private sector and through integration with the global economy. As part of our broader development assistance programs, Australia is therefore assisting LDCs to take advantage of opportunities arising from trade liberalisation, including through the Doha Round and Aid for Trade initiatives.

Since July 2003, Australia has provided duty-free and quota-free access for imports of **all** products from **all** LDCs, with no phase-in periods nor exceptions, and we have encouraged other countries to match this level of access. We are also working within the WTO to assist LDCs in building their trade-related capacities to implement and benefit from WTO agreements.

Australia is also committed to providing targeted debt relief to assist countries' development. In particular, Australia contributed A\$136.2 million to the International Development Association (IDA) in 2006-07 to finance Australia's share of the first ten years of the G-8's Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI).

Madame President, Australia looks forward to continuing its productive work with its development partners in the Asia-Pacific and beyond to find practical, workable solutions to their development challenges. And we remain committed to making a substantial contribution to the coordinated implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs, in turn reducing poverty and making progress towards achieving sustainable development for all.