



**High Level Meeting on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review
of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
for the Decade 2001-2010**

Statement by the Brazilian Delegation

(check against delivery)

New York, September 18, 2006

Madam President,

I would like to associate the Brazilian delegation with the statements made by the Minister of Home Affairs of South Africa, on behalf of the G77 and China, and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, on behalf of the Rio Group.

For the Brazilian Government, the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries continues to have unique significance. We are convinced that no international order may be labeled fair and just as long as the situation of this most vulnerable group of countries is not significantly improved.

Brazil also deems the Cotonou Strategy to be an important contribution to the framework of national and international initiatives in support of the development strategies of the Least Development Countries.

Although not a donor country, Brazil has adopted a set of measures and policies highly convergent with the provisions set forth in the Brussels Programme of Action. I should take this opportunity to emphasize that LDC dimension is also present within our own country, as we, unfortunately, still count over 30 million of our citizens below the poverty line.

Brazilian bilateral cooperation agreements and projects include LDCs from all developing regions of the world - Haiti, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe, Timor Leste, Afghanistan, to name but a few. They encompass such diverse areas as institutional capacity building, justice, governance, education, health, agriculture, science and technology and professional training.

Brazil is also actively participating in international initiatives in support of LDCs. The IBSA Fund, established by Brazil, India and South Africa, and managed under UNDP, is financing projects currently underway in Guinea-Bissau and Haiti. Another project sponsored by Brazil, the International Drug Purchase Facility - UNITAID - will be officially launched tomorrow afternoon here at the UN. Created in the context of the Action against Hunger and Poverty Initiative, by Presidents Lula, Chirac and Lagos and Secretary-General Kofi Annan, UNITAID will provide financial resources for the treatment of the three most serious diseases that affect developing countries, particularly the LDCs: AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. In addition, having in mind the constant drain on LDCs limited resources as a result of the heavy external debt imposed on them, Brazil, despite our limitations, has already provided significant debt relief for seven African LDCs.

It is our firm belief that much remains to be done at the international level in accordance with the Brussels Programme of Action and towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the LDCs. The Brazilian Government is of the view that long-lasting economic growth and human development for LDCs highly depend not only on greater effectiveness of international cooperation, but also - and especially so - on structural changes in international trade.

The Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Decision on Duty Free and Quota Free market access for LDCs should be made operational. Our Government has already started internal consultations, together with the private sector, in order to work out the details related to the implementation of that initiative. Once it is put into practice, 32 LDCs which are WTO members are expected to benefit from facilitated access to the Brazilian market for their exports.

However, greater and much deeper actions are necessary, and considerable changes are required to improve the multilateral trading system. Brazil deeply regrets that the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations have been suspended and considers this as a setback for a Round that is to place development and agriculture at its heart. We call for a prompt resumption of the negotiations with a view to arriving at final commitments that are ambitious, balanced, and faithful to the development dimension of the Doha Round.

Thank you, Madam President.