

**STATEMENT BY MOROCCO ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN ON THE
INFORMAL MEETING ON S&DT
COUNCIL OF TRADE IN SERVICES SS
20-03-07**

On behalf of the African Group let me thank you Mr. Chair for convening a meeting for the discussion of the S & D treatment and the LDC modalities

The African group calls and urges Members to intensify discussions on S & D treatment with the aim to address the issues of concern and of interest to developing countries

The African group attaches great importance to this important aspect accompanying the liberalization of trade in services which has an ultimate objective, that is the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Doha Development Agenda

The African group seeks, through a treatment that goes along the line with its members' capacities in trade in services to increase developing countries participation in international services trade to strengthen their domestic services capacities, efficiency and competitiveness

Besides the African group desires to find the best ways to helping promote developing countries services exports in modes and sectors of export interest to them.

In this regard, the African group has put on table a certain number of proposals, which we discussed with other members. We took note of the remarks and opinion expressed by members

We at a first stage revised one of our proposals and submitted it on July last. Since then, and as negotiations were suspend, we have not had the chance to revise it.

This proposal derives from the principal that Article IV is a key element of the GATS as far as special and differential treatment is concerned. The importance of achieving the objectives of Article IV are recognized in its implications for and inter linkages with other elements of the GATS such as Article XIX, and the Guidelines and Procedures.

Hence the African group believes that discussions related to S & D would lead to the implementation of Article IV and would help our countries continue negotiations on Market Access in services.

The paper circulated as a room document on 14th July 2006, is a revised proposed paragraph 79. And as I said, it's a refined language that took into consideration the comments we received from the Members at a previous reading.

In the actual proposal, paragraph **b** insists on the necessity of an **evaluation** to be undertaken by the CTS to examine the implementation of Article IV

Paragraph **c** pledges **reporting** to the CTS on how members' actions do contribute to the implementation of Article IV and paragraph **d** insists on **re-adjusting negotiations** based on developing countries needs and of course on the assessment the CTS is required to make and on the regular review regarding the implementation of Article IV.