

**Mission Permanente  
du Royaume du Maroc**

**Genève**



**البعثة الدائمة  
للمملكة المغربية  
جنيف**

**Statement of  
Mr Mohammed LOULICHKI  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
At the 8<sup>TH</sup> Trade Policy Review of Japan**

**-Geneva, 31<sup>st</sup> January , 2007-**

**Madame Chair,**

Let me begin by expressing my warm welcome to the Ambassador Jun YOKOTA and to the members of the important delegation accompanying him to this 8<sup>th</sup> trade policy review of Japan . Many thanks to the Secretariat for its thorough and highly-informative report as well as to my colleague M. Guillermo VALLES GALMES, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay for his thought-provoking statement as the discussant for this important review.

My delegation took note of the continued and sustained growth of the Japanese economy which reached 2.7% in 2005 and achieved similar rates in 2006 after a long slump.

In order to make the recovery a sustainable one, Japan continues to strenuously implement the required regulatory reform and other structural reform measures, and strive to boost the Japanese economy's growth potential .

With regard to its trade policy regime, the overall strategy of Japan continues to seek long-term prosperity and growth through the promotion of business activities at the domestic and the international levels.

In this respect and since the last trade policy review, Japan has introduced various measures intending to further liberalise its trade and investment regimes, improve the competitive environment, promote regulatory reforms and strengthen competition policy so as to create more opportunities for domestic and foreign business.

As tariffs are the main instrument of the Japan's trade policy , it is worth mentioning that most imports get into Japan free or subject to low tariffs and, according to the Secretariat Report, nearly 99% of tariff lines are bound and most applied rates coincide with bound rates, imparting, thus, a high degree of predictability to Japan's tariffs.

In the field of agriculture, my delegation marks its appreciation to the strong sympathy of Japan for the proposals of the African Group/ LDC's on Food Aid and that of the ACP on market access, since those groups are undoubtedly the veritable beneficiaries of the Development Round .

As far as services are concerned, Japan attaches an outstanding importance to the achievement of a comprehensive liberalisation in trade in services with the belief that it should be beneficial to the whole members of the WTO including developing countries through the attraction of further investment coupled with an increase in their competitiveness , production capacity and export opportunities.

In the field of trade related intellectual property rights, various legislative measures have been amended since the last policy review with the aim of strengthening protection. The amendments concern, inter alia , the patent law, the Customs Tariff Law and the Copyright Law. Moreover, an intellectual Property Strategic Program was issued in 2006.

**Madame Chair,**

My delegation appreciates, more particularly, the commitment of Japan to the Doha Development Agenda aiming at facilitating developing countries' integration into the multilateral trading system as well as to its recognition of the importance of the development dimension in the negotiation process. This commitment of Japan was and hopefully will continue to be expressed through the provisions of technical assistance and training activities organized by WTO and through bilateral and regional frameworks, in order to enable developing countries and LDC's build their physical and institutional infrastructures and promote the development of their human resources with the view to taking benefit from the multilateral system. Japan's valuable contribution to the Global Trust Fund of the Doha Development Agenda has attained 4.88 millions Swiss Francs since its adoption in 2002.

My delegation would like to commend the decision of the Government of Japan to support the "One Village, one Product" movement in developing countries, as well as LDC's and others from a medium and longer perspective, as part of the "Development Initiative for Trade" advocated by Former Prime Minister Koizumi and announced on the occasion of the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005. Through the campaign, which started in February 2006, culturally representative and attractive products such as craftwork items, textiles and processed foods from nations in Asia, Africa, Oceania and Central America will be introduced freely to the Japanese market.

In addition to the above, Japan provides substantial Official Development Assistance (ODA) tailored to the needs of Africa. Furthermore, Japan has launched, in 1993, a TICAD Process for Africa whose main objective is to achieve sustainable economic development by promoting trade and investment. In this respect, 2008 will be an important year since Japan will hold TICAD IV which will be focusing on Africa's Development and will be mainly business oriented.

**Madame Chair,**

Despite the geographical distance, Morocco and Japan have many ambitions in common and share the same values of dialogue, moderation and openness. Figures are encouraging in several fields. Japan ranks second among providers of public aid to Morocco's development and 7th among bilateral creditors. The last visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to Japan in 2005 on the eve of the 50th Anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries marked a new chapter for the existing friendly and cooperative relations between them. It was also the occasion for both sides to reaffirm, among others, the commitment of our two countries to further enhance Japan-Morocco triangular cooperation, building upon the previous achievements, for the promotion of South-South Cooperation, particularly in Africa.

To close, Madame Chair, my delegation would like to encourage the progress Japan has achieved since its last trade policy review and appreciate its efforts as a firm supporter of free trade system for the growth of the world economy and the benefit of developing countries. We wish the greatest success of the present trade policy review of Japan. **Thank you**