Personal Concluding Remarks by the Chair

I am thankful to all of you for the good and frank discussion we had this morning. Based on our discussion, I would like to offer some final remarks:

1. All of us underlined the high importance we attach to a strong Multilateral Trading System and its contribution to economic growth and job creation.

2. Concern was expressed about the persisting high pressures to implement protectionist measures. Many referred to the need to resist protectionism and to roll back protectionist measures taken earlier.

3. There was a common understanding that the WTO needs a positive negotiating outcome at its 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali. It is our will to deliver on a set of substantial results and to deploy the necessary resources.

4. There was broad agreement that a success in Bali calls for realism and pragmatism. Members should strive for the doable and make proposals likely to attract sufficient support to secure agreement.

5. We concurred that the contours of a potential Bali outcome include, at its core, an Agreement on Trade Facilitation, some issues related to Agriculture, as well as issues of special interest to developing and in particular least developed Members.

6. Time management was considered a key to success. We need to have clarity on the scope of the possible deal as soon as possible. Around Easter we should evaluate and take stock of where we are and whether we will be able to reach a meaningful result in Bali.

7. All of us stressed that a success in Bali should not be seen as the end of the Doha road. It should be considered as a stepping stone on the way to address the remaining issues under the WTO agenda including the conclusion of the Doha Round.

8. In summary, I take home that serious attempts to deliver results in Bali have already started. I sense optimism that - this time - we will be successful. So let us instruct our negotiators to go to work hard and let us give them the resources and negotiation margins necessary to prepare for a substantial set of deliverables!