



September 2, 2009

The Right Honorable Gordon Brown MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Prime Minister and Mr. President:

We are writing to you in your respective roles as Chair of the Group of Twenty and Chair of the upcoming G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh. We respectfully request that you consider the following when compiling the summit agenda.

We, the undersigned, call on the rich-country leaders meeting at the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh to assist least-developed countries by providing 100 percent duty-free, quota free market access, with easy to use and generous rules, by the end of the year. Developing countries in a position to do so should agree to gradually but consistently move toward this same goal.

Evidence suggests that the global economic crisis continues to have severe impacts on least-developed countries. Sharp decreases in investment flows, export demand, export credits, and commodity prices have reduced export opportunities and pushed millions of men, women, and children back into poverty. Although this problem is their burden, it is not of their making, and the Leaders of the G-20 have a responsibility to implement policies that effectively address the concurrent issues of poverty reduction, economic growth, and political stability.

The promise by rich countries to provide duty-free, quota-free access to the least-developed countries was made by all Heads of States and governments in 2000 with the UN Millennium Declaration, which embodies the political commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. It thus predates the Doha Development Round and it would be irresponsible to delay any longer immediate action on a deliverable that would lessen the impact of the crisis for millions of poor people. Debates over Doha Round negotiating positions only extend the suffering. The time for leadership is now.

Respectfully,

Members of the Center for Global Development Global Trade Preference Reform Working Group

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cc: Members of the Group of Twenty