

30 May 2008

**Statement by Mr Akira AMARI,
Minister of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,
on Anti-dumping Negotiations under the WTO**

1. On 28 May 2008, the chairman of the Negotiating Group on Rules, H.E. Mr. Guillermo VALLES GALMÉS issued his new document (TN/RL/W/232). I appreciate his efforts to have made progress intensively in the rules negotiations.
2. The chairman's draft text on antidumping that was issued last November (TN/RL/W/213) caused serious concerns among the vast majority of WTO Members including Japan. The prominent reason was, needless to say, the legalization of zeroing that could unfairly inflate anti-dumping duties.
3. The chairman in his new document addresses this outstanding issue, describing that numerous delegations opposed zeroing while only one delegation insisted on zeroing. He further refers to the proposal by twenty developing and developed Members including Japan, which proposes prohibition of zeroing in all proceedings (TN/RL/W/215).
4. However, unfortunately the draft text itself has not been revised. There is still a large gap between this new document and a possible revised text that will adequately reflect actual negotiations and balance of Members. I am obliged to say that I am disappointed with his document.
5. We are at the critically important juncture to conclude the DDA by the end of this year. The rules negotiation is one of essential areas of the negotiations under the single undertaking. The strengthened disciplines are indispensable as the final outcome. I will continue to devote myself to the negotiations and ask the chairman for his early release of the revised text.