

25 December 2008

WTO Doha Round
Statement by Mr Toshihiro NIKAI,
Minister of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,
on the release of the chairman's revised text on Rules (anti-dumping)

1. On 19 December 2008, the chairman of the Negotiating Group on Rules, H.E. Mr. Guillermo VALLES GALMÉS released his revised text (TN/RL/W/236). The new text replaces his previous text that was presented last November (TN/RL/W/213). I appreciate his continuous efforts.
2. The chairman's first draft text on anti-dumping that was issued last November (TN/RL/W/213) caused serious concerns not only for Japan but also for the vast majority of WTO Members since the text included legalization of zeroing that could unfairly inflate anti-dumping duties. Since then Japan together with those Members has fully engaged in the negotiations and sought a revised text.
3. This chairman's revised text is a necessary step to resume the rules negotiations and to advance discussions toward an early conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations.
4. On the other hand, in substance, a number of essential issues remain: While the revised text does not include legalization of zeroing, it does not provide clarification of the prohibition of zeroing.
5. The rules negotiation is one of the essential areas under the single undertaking. Japan will continue to devote itself to the negotiations in order to achieve the strengthened disciplines as the final outcome.