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## **WTO Doha Round still missing deadlines and development**

**“Today we see another World Trade Organisation negotiating deadline pass by while developing countries concerns continue to be ignored,” commented Fair Trade advocate Adam Wolfenden.**

“The current push by the WTO and some industrialised countries to finalise the agreement is putting the arbitrary deadlines of the negotiations ahead of their substance,” stated Mr Wolfenden.

The March 17 deadline was proposed for selected countries to negotiate texts on both agriculture and manufactured goods, known as the “horizontal process”, however this has been postponed due to continued differences over the texts.

“The Doha Round of negotiations was ‘sold’ as the ‘development’ round, yet consistently the voices and concerns of developing countries are being ignored. These countries are right to not be pressured into signing an agreement that offers them very little” explained Mr Wolfenden.

The Doha Round of trade talks has been hampered by differences between industrial and developing countries. Differences have focussed mainly on agricultural market access for developing countries, and manufactured goods and services market access for industrial countries.

“The continued push for trade agreements that are constantly in favour of industrial countries won’t aid development or the environment. We need to be focussing our trade negotiations on ensuring that they promote human and labour rights as well as environmental sustainability” continued Mr Wolfenden

“Mr Crean referred to a WTO agreement as ‘daunting but doable’. I would say the same about a fair multilateral trading system but add also that it is necessary,” concluded Mr Wolfenden.

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