

**Report of the PC on Trade and Industry on its position on the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference to be held on 15-17 December 2011, dated 1 December 2011**

At a meeting held on 1 December 2011, the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry considered "South Africa's Approach to the 8<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference 15-17 December 2011" released on 30 November 2011. The Committee supports the Ministerial Consultative process, as well as the positions indicated by Government, which had been adopted by Parliament. Further to this the Committee would like to raise the following issues:

- The Committee reaffirms its support of the WTO's principle of multilateralism and does not support plurilateralism.
- The Committee reaffirms its support of the development mandate of the Doha Round of negotiations and urges parties to conclude the Round on this basis.
- The Committee was of the view that South Africa's classification as a developed country at the WTO must be corrected to reflect its developing country status and prevent the further deepening of unfair requirements/requests from developed countries during WTO negotiations.
- South Africa should seek to deepen regional coordination among African parliaments regarding WTO negotiating positions to achieve developmental objectives including the Doha Round.
- During this period, a formal inter-parliamentary structure should be established to sit alongside Ministerial Conferences to address WTO issues, where relevant parliamentarians are represented.