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NCTO President Responds to Conclusion of Hong Kong Ministerial and Agreement to Provide Duty-Free Access for LDCs

Washington DC) NCTO President Cass Johnson issued the following statement in response to the end of the WTO talks in Hong Kong:

"The text from the Hong Kong Ministerial contains language that appears to obligate the United States to provide duty-free access for at least 97 percent of its tariff lines to least-developed countries. NCTO will be meeting with the government in order to assess the precise nature of this commitment, and the impact it could have on sensitive textile and apparel product lines. The text also includes language authorizing the development of sectorals, which is a positive step toward achieving a special textile sectoral, a key industry goal."

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