



# Facts on Global Reform

Office of the United States Trade Representative  
Doha Development Agenda Policy Brief – November 2005

[www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov)

## **U.S. Leadership on Helping Developing Countries Realize Benefits of Doha Round**

The United States is deeply committed to helping the world's poor. The U.S. is the world's largest single-country donor of official development assistance, the largest donor of emergency humanitarian relief, the largest donor of private charitable funding, and the World Bank has judged the United States to be the world's most open major economy to imports from developing countries.

- The United States has put forth the world's most ambitious proposal for removing trade-distorting barriers to trade in agriculture, offering more cuts on tariffs from all countries than the EU or G-20 proposals, delivering the elimination of export subsidies by 2010, aggressively limiting "sensitive product" protections, and in a two-step process, eventually eliminating all remaining trade-distorting policies in agriculture.
- The United States nearly doubled its official development assistance to the world's poor from \$10 billion in 2000 to \$19 billion in 2004.
- U.S. citizens give billions more every year through charitable donations, and U.S. NGOs account for the vast majority (62%) of all private institutional grants from OECD countries.
- Debt relief is another area where the U.S. has taken the lead. With leadership from President Bush, the G-8 countries agreed to cancel 100% of the bilateral and multilateral debt for qualifying Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.
- In addition, the United States contributed over \$1.34 billion in FY2005 for trade capacity building assistance, which includes trade-related infrastructure, to developing countries, up 45 percent from FY2004 (\$921 million). Our commitment is demonstrated by the continued growth in USG efforts, the 45 percent increase follows a sizeable 21 percent increase between FY2003 and FY2004. (see TCB brochure on [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov))
- The United States is the world's most open major economy to imports from developing countries.
  - The World Bank's 2005 *Global Monitoring Report* shows index values of import restrictiveness against low income countries of 6 for the United States, 7 for Canada, 15 for the EU and 24 for Japan (lower scores reflect less restrictions).
  - Furthermore, the report says the U.S. economy is also the most open to least developed countries, with a score of 5 for the United States, 6 for Canada, 13 for the EU and 21 for Japan.
  - The broadest measure of trade restrictiveness – the average bound tariff – shows that the United States is among the least restrictive trading economies in the world, with an average bound tariff on all goods of 3.6 percent, compared to the 39 percent average of all WTO members.