



**Global Alliance *for*
Sugar Trade Reform
and Liberalisation**

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US Leadership can tip the Doha balance

Media Release

Political vision and leadership is vital to the successful reinvigoration of the WTO Doha Round according to the *Global Sugar Alliance*.

Global Sugar Alliance members have just concluded discussions in Washington-DC, meeting key decision makers and advisors in the US House and Senate Agriculture Committees and senior officials of the USDA.

Global Sugar Alliance Chairman, Mr Keith De Lacy said the new US Congress has an important opportunity to demonstrate leadership on the key issues for Special and Sensitive Products such as sugar.

US leadership would help break the logjam in the Doha negotiations, Mr De Lacy said.

Agriculture remains at the heart of a Doha deal. All WTO members must find additional flexibility to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

"The US, EU, leaders of the G20 (Brazil and India), Japan and the Cairns Group must take up the challenge".

In Washington we stressed Market Access as the number one priority, Mr De Lacy said.

"Headline tariff cuts, quota expansion and subsidy reductions are critical if substantial new commercial opportunities are to flow from the Round".

"The early elimination of all forms of export subsidies on all products by 31 December 2013 as agreed at the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference) must be locked in."

"Balance can only be achieved if these gains are matched by real cuts to current expenditure on trade-distorting production subsidies."

While it is important that the special and differential needs of developing countries are taken into account, for the negotiations to move forward developing countries will also need to make a contribution. "Their positive action will enhance the benefits they receive from the Round."

In the coming weeks, the Global Sugar Alliance will take this message directly to governments in Brazil and India, Mr De Lacy said.

"It's time for leaders to step forward!"

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Members of the *Global Alliance for Sugar Trade Reform and Liberalisation* are:

Australia – Canegrowers, Australian Sugar Milling Council, Queensland Sugar, Australian Cane Farmer's Association

Brazil – União da Agroindústria Canavieira de São Paulo (UNICA), Crystalsev, Cosan, Copersucar

Canada - Canadian Sugar Institute, Canadian Sugar Beet Producers

Chile – Empresas Iansa S.A.

Colombia – Asocana

Guatemala – Asociación de Azucareros de Guatemala (ASAZGUA)

India – Indian Sugar Mills Association, National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Limited and Indian Sugar Exim Corporation Limited

South Africa – South African Sugar Association

Thailand – Thai Sugar Millers Corporation, Thai Cane and Sugar Corporation, Thai Sugarcane Planters' Associations.