

## **UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

www.ustr.gov

Washington, D.C. 20508

202-395-3230

For Immediate Release: Contact:

December 12, 2008 Sean Spicer/Gretchen Hamel (202) 395-3230

## Statement from Ambassador Susan C. Schwab on WTO Ministerial

"The US has shown flexibility repeatedly in the past several weeks to achieve the convergence among WTO members necessary to convene a ministerial. I am therefore disappointed, but respect the decision by the Director General to not call a ministerial at this time.

"Due to numerous outstanding issues voiced by several WTO members, it became apparent that the gaps were too large to bridge at this time. There were several significant unresolved issues on the table that needed to be addressed for a deal on modalities to come together.

"The US remains committed to working with the WTO and our trading partners to reach a successful Doha outcome, one that fulfills the promise of this round."