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## A3P partners global call for free trade in wood and paper

A3P has partnered wood and paper industry leaders from Canada, Chile, Europe, New Zealand, and the United States in a global call for accelerated trade liberalisation in wood and paper products through the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha Development Agenda (“the Doha negotiations”).

Between them, the industry leaders represent 78 per cent of world exports in wood products, 81 per cent of world exports in wood pulp and 86 per cent of world exports in paper.

A3P CEO Mr Neil Fisher said the Doha negotiations offer an unparalleled opportunity to eliminate trade barriers and put in place more effective trade rules.

“Global subsidies and tariffs currently distort world trade in wood and paper products. These barriers are a leading contributor to Australia’s \$2 billion trade deficit wood and paper.

“Trade liberalisation is critical to the economic and environmental progress of the global wood and paper industry – an industry that employs nearly 13 million people in 200 nations, often in rural areas where there are few other employment opportunities.

“Fostering a legitimate forest products industry can also help reduce deforestation by expanding the opportunity for communities to benefit from their forests.

“A3P, joins representatives from the global wood and paper industry, in calling on the WTO to reach agreement on expanding global market access on agricultural and non-agricultural products by the end of 2007”, said Mr Fisher.

Signatories to the global statement include: A3P (Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council), Wood Processors Association of New Zealand, Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), Corporacion Chilena de la Madera (CORMA), American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), New Zealand Forest Owners Association, Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)

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### Further information

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