



Committee on Agriculture
Special Session

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE IN SPECIAL SESSION

DRAFT CHAIR TEXT ON AGRICULTURE

29 July 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. One year has now passed since Members decided to place their confidence in me by appointing me as Chair of the WTO Committee on Agriculture in Special Session (CoA-SS). I remain deeply grateful to Members for the trust they have reposed in me, for their ongoing support and cooperation, and for their encouragement as I seek to navigate the obstacles that we encounter on our shared journey towards our collective goal of strengthening the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) to make it responsive to the challenges facing the agricultural trading system. At all times throughout this process, I have remained acutely conscious of the enormous responsibility that this role entails, and of the great difficulties we all face in this challenging period, and I would like to take this opportunity to reassure Members that I do not underestimate the complexity of our collective endeavour, or its significance.

1.2. During this past year, I have listened carefully and attentively to Members' expectations and concerns – as well as their assessments of what they consider to be desirable and feasible – in our pursuit of our overall objectives. I have done so in the meetings of the CoA-SS, my consultations with regional groups and coalitions, and my bilateral talks with individual Members. I am very much aware that any outcome from our negotiations has to be the product of Members' own engagement with one another and has to reflect their own assessment of how best to reconcile their objectives and sensitivities with what is realistic and achievable, taking account of their own understanding of other Members' objectives and sensitivities, as well as the broader negotiating context.

1.3. It is with this in mind that I would like to share today an initial draft text which I sincerely hope will be of value to Members as they seek to make further progress in our negotiations in the run-up to the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) in November. The draft reflects and builds upon my recent report on the way forward towards MC12, which assessed the "state of play" in the negotiations¹ in light of the valuable work of the Facilitators and the reports they submitted on their respective negotiating topics. The draft text also takes into account the submissions that have been tabled since then, as well as the comments and reflections which Members have made in their interventions in negotiating sessions.

1.4. I would therefore like to invite you to consider this text as a tool for you to use to build convergence on our shared aims in this process. As such, it is simply a steppingstone for us to move forward on our journey. In a number of areas, it seeks to identify options which Members could consider, thereby sketching out the contours for possible compromises and trade-offs within and across negotiating areas. It represents my honest efforts to identify potential broad "landing zones" which could attract convergence. The text takes into account the range of views that have been expressed by Members and seeks to chart a way forward with this in mind. It is not intended to be a perfect representation of what can and should be achieved, nor to summarize all the views expressed by Members: indeed, it is only a tool for you to engage with one another in a constructive exchange, collectively using this text as a reference to work toward an MC12 agricultural outcome.

1.5. Of course, Members' views continue to diverge – including on critical issues. With that in mind, is now the right time to present a draft text of this sort? In my view, it is precisely such divergences, which have persisted after months of intense discussions and more than 25 new submissions, that make a draft text timely. Given the limited time left before MC12, it is my hope that such a text could prompt us to change gear and engage in focused, text-based negotiations aimed at delivering concrete outcomes when we return in September.

1.6. I fully acknowledge that some submissions were introduced only very recently or are still under preparation and will be discussed in the fall. As I mentioned before, this text is only a tool: it is a living document which will evolve over time as a result of your future inputs and negotiations.

1.7. Square brackets are used in a number of places for a variety of purposes, to reflect Members' inputs, suggest alternatives or possible formulations. Where text is not in square brackets, this does not convey any degree of acceptance by Members.

1.8. Before presenting briefly the different elements of the draft text and the rationale behind them, I believe this is also an opportune time to take stock, by looking back on the road we have travelled

¹ JOB/AG/202.

so far, reminding ourselves of our agreed destination, and reconsidering what has changed around us since we first set off.

1.9. A quarter-century has now passed since the ink dried on the signatures to the AoA, and the commitment in Article 20 thereof to continue the reform process that was initiated under the Uruguay Round. The objectives set out in that Article remain as valid today as they did at that time. Today, as then, Members share the goal of establishing a "fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system". Today, as then, they are committed to pursuing negotiations with a view to progressively reducing support and protection. And today, as then, they wish to take account of and accommodate the interests of all Members, including special and differential treatment of developing countries, the non-trade concerns of Members such as food security, and the protection of the environment.

1.10. WTO Members can reasonably take some pride in the fact that their efforts to date have led to the agreement in Nairobi in 2015 to abolish export subsidies and set rules for other forms of farm export support – thereby achieving concrete progress on one of the explicit commitments made under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2). They also demonstrated, in Bali in 2013, that they could reach agreement on the issues of public stockholding for food security purposes and the administration of tariff rate quotas as part of a broader package. However, we are all aware that this is not enough, as the mandate in Article 20 is expansive and much more rigorous. There is therefore a lot of pending work.

1.11. And since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1995, markets for food and agriculture have grown progressively integrated. According to the FAO, trade in food and agriculture has more than doubled in real terms, with the share of trade between developing countries also growing at a rapid rate. Average incomes have risen, with millions of people lifted out of poverty and hunger, as reflected in the publications of the FAO and other International Organizations. A proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements has accompanied this process, as countries seek to improve access to markets and deepen integration with their trading partners – both in neighbouring regions and further afield.

1.12. However, while we have indeed started off together down the road we agreed to travel, we should also recognize that there is still rather a long way left to go – and that we will need to pick up our pace if we are to successfully conclude the negotiations and make a meaningful difference in people's lives around the world. Markets for food and agriculture still remain highly distorted and protected. All too often, they function poorly – with the most vulnerable producers and consumers those that pay the highest price. In many regions, persistent underinvestment in the farm sector has led to low and declining yields, and to stagnant incomes for people living in rural areas deepening poverty in some areas. And climate change is creating new challenges for market actors with changing temperature and precipitation patterns and more frequent and intense extreme weather events compounding existing problems, such as food insecurity.

1.13. There is indeed no room for complacency about the task before us. United Nations agencies have recently reported that, in the last few years, progress tackling hunger and malnutrition has been reversed, with economic downturns exacerbating the impacts of COVID-19, conflict, and climate change. This grim news undermines the likelihood that we will achieve by 2030 the SDGs targets on ending hunger and malnutrition. WTO Members can and should contribute to improving how food and agriculture markets function by redoubling their efforts to achieve an outcome at MC12.

1.14. Such an outcome will not be a comprehensive solution to all the problems facing food and agricultural markets today. But, very importantly, it can and must contribute to rebuilding confidence among governments and other actors in our collective ability to rise to the challenges we face and work together to address them. It is urgent for us to lay out a pathway forward to guide our future work and set out markers for what we wish to achieve together, including at subsequent Ministerial Conferences. It is important to enhance engagement, establish and demonstrate political commitment and set out a direction for future progress. And it is our responsibility to contribute to the broader collective effort to rebuild more inclusive and sustainable economies as we all work to overcome the pandemic and lay the foundations for a more resilient future. Action is needed now with long-term perspective in mind.

1.15. With this in mind, I would like to introduce the draft text I have prepared, under my own responsibility, for each of the seven negotiating areas in which we have been pursuing work to date, as well as on transparency. As previously stated, this text is without prejudice to Member's positions in the negotiations and should be considered as an instrument to support Members' engagement after the summer break.

2 DOMESTIC SUPPORT

2.1. The Domestic Support pillar has been at the heart of the agricultural negotiations since their commencement in 2000. Numerous submissions have been made on this subject by Members, including very recently, emphasizing the shared objective of addressing trade-distorting domestic support (TDDS). It is also the area where, for both developed and developing Members, the expectations for an outcome at MC12 are the highest. Indeed, an outcome on domestic support is long overdue. Many calls have been made to strengthen the existing disciplines on TDDS while at the same time leaving sufficient policy space for Members to pursue legitimate policy objectives such as food security, supporting small scale and resource-poor farmers, and fostering a resilient agricultural sector. Addressing TDDS is also needed to ensure a level playing field and equitable trade, and to avoid costly competition between treasuries.

2.2. Taking into account the limited time before MC12 and the persistent differences in how to discipline TDDS, my view continues to be that a substantive outcome at MC12 whereby Members would agree on concrete modalities for the reduction of TDDS entitlements appears to be out of reach. After having listened carefully to Members' views, I have not detected any fundamental change in Members' positions that would make me think otherwise. However, I continue to believe that MC12 can deliver a useful intermediary step forward in the DS reform process that would define the path ahead for the benefit of all Members. I also believe that it is our collective duty to make every effort to find a way forward in this important area. The different proposals suggesting concrete ideas for substantive outcomes could be useful for the next phase when the details of modalities will be discussed.

2.3. The aim of the text is therefore to encourage Members to meet one another midway, bearing in mind the common objective of disciplining TDDS. The text is not static, and it is expected to evolve with Members contributing ideas and making suggestions for its improvement. In that sense, it should be seen as a platform on which Members can mount and work towards an outcome at MC12 and beyond. It proposes some alternatives to provide a more malleable basis for finding consensus in this important area, building on Members' ideas, submissions², the Facilitators' report³ and my own consultations.

3 MARKET ACCESS

3.1. Regarding market access, I continue to believe that if elements of this pillar were to be included in an MC12 agriculture package, they would contribute to fulfilling Members' desire of having a balanced outcome at MC12. In terms of content, I broadly see two specific components of an outcome on market access, namely a decision on some specific transparency-inspired elements, and a work programme on market access negotiations post-MC12. The issue of applied tariff transparency and the treatment of shipments *en route* has dominated the transparency discussions in the Market Access pillar. The joint proposal in JOB/AG/212 is the basis of my draft text on this issue. This proposal emanated from extensive discussions between the proponents and non-proponents, including during the Market Access Facilitator-led process. Its in-built flexibilities, including the possibility of agreeing on the decision on a best endeavour basis, has been welcomed by some Members. The recent discussions on the proposal in the CoA-SS confirmed that additional work might be required to bridge the remaining gaps in Members' positions. I also attempted to include some suggestions in my draft in light of Members' reactions to the proposal.

3.2. On a post-MC12 Market Access work programme, the text incorporates some elements from the joint proposal in JOB/AG/198. Several Members have indicated a preference for a comprehensive approach and this is reflected in my draft. In addition, the text refers to the issue of non-*ad valorem* tariffs from a narrow perspective of facilitating a conversation among Members on market access

² These include JOB/AG/102, JOB/AG/112, JOB/AG/137, JOB/AG/172, JOB/AG/177/Rev.2, JOB/AG/182, JOB/AG/199, JOB/AG/203, and JOB/AG/206.

³ JOB/AG/201.

modalities, as the absence of data on *ad valorem* equivalents (AVEs) could hinder an informed discussion on this issue. Mindful of some Members' view that tariff simplification should not be seen purely through the lens of transparency, I wish to emphasize that the reference to AVEs in the text is without prejudice to Members' eventual decision on the timing and modalities of modifying or simplifying the nature of their tariff commitments. Several Members, especially developing Members, have raised the importance of addressing non-tariff barriers (NTBs). While being cognizant of other existing agreements and Committees that routinely deal with such matters, I have suggested that Members explore possible options to address NTBs within the agriculture market access negotiations. Finally, the text acknowledges the linkage which is often invoked by some Members between market access and other pillars, particularly the Domestic Support pillar.

4 EXPORT COMPETITION

4.1. On export competition, the text acknowledges the importance of transparency to ensure a proper implementation of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition as well as continuation of negotiations post MC12. References are made to the triennial reviews undertaken within the Committee on Agriculture and the Secretariat's role in supporting Members to fulfil their transparency obligations.

4.2. The text also builds upon elements contained in the recent submission JOB/AG/211 to suggest options aimed at helping Members to find a balanced way forward to enhance and streamline transparency requirements while taking into account concerns expressed by a large group of developing country Members cautioning against burdensome additional transparency requirements. In that regard, it has been suggested that the Secretariat could provide relevant trade-related data to ease the burden on Members.

5 EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

5.1. On export prohibitions or restrictions, the text seeks to reflect possible areas of convergence on the two issues under discussion: exempting WFP food purchases from export restrictions and enhancing compliance with notification requirements under AoA Article 12.

5.2. Regarding the first issue, Members have acknowledged the WFP's admirable work to fight hunger and malnutrition, which was duly recognized through the award of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to the WFP. I have listened carefully to the discussions to date, including following the most recent submission by the African Group.⁴ My assessment remains that the text emerging from the December 2020 discussions as set out in the Facilitator's report⁵ continues to be a plausible basis for Members to re-engage in the negotiations with a view to reaching an agricultural outcome at MC12. Many Members have reiterated their support for this text, as it could facilitate the highly valued humanitarian work of the WFP, while taking due account of importing Members' concerns regarding domestic policy and food security considerations.

5.3. On the second issue, the text is intended to capture various elements identified in the proponents' submissions in particular JOB/AG/207, and related discussions to date, taking into account their varying degrees of maturity. It recognizes in particular the importance of transparency in minimizing the potential effects of export restrictions on price volatility and the food security of importing countries, while acknowledging the concerns expressed by a large group of developing country Members regarding the possible burden associated with any additional requirements. In particular, the text envisages a best-endeavour clause for a 30-day time period for advance notice and, as an alternative, an obligation with the same period except in situations involving *force majeure*. Further, the text suggests concrete ways in which the Secretariat could further assist Members in fulfilling notification obligations and notes the possibility for Members to explore how to revise G/AG/2. As is the case for all the other topics, this section which also provides for the continuation of the negotiations post-MC12, should be read in light of the entire text, taking due account of the need expressed by Members to ensure a proper balance across various issues and priorities.

⁴ JOB/AG/206.

⁵ JOB/AG/201.

6 COTTON

6.1. As stated on many occasions, an outcome on cotton remains for many Members an important element of an MC12 agricultural package, in view of its critical role for the socio-economic development and livelihoods of many people, particularly in LDC Members. The text mainly covers transparency and trade-distorting domestic support for cotton. A third component related to development is being addressed in parallel within the Director General's Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton.

6.2. On transparency, the text acknowledges the existing enhanced cotton dedicated mechanism and reiterates Members' commitment to explore ways to further improve it, building upon the work undertaken in the context of the Facilitator-led process and subsequent developments.

6.3. As noted in my state of play report⁶, trade-distorting domestic support for cotton constitutes the central element of the negotiations on this topic, and remains an important goal for many Members, and a priority for some – but is also characterized by the absence of convergence so far. In this context, the text reflects the mandate to address cotton ambitiously, expeditiously, and specifically, while also taking into account the overall context of the agriculture negotiations, particularly the negotiations on domestic support generally.⁷

7 SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM (SSM)

7.1. On SSM, both the report by the Facilitator⁸ and my state of play report⁹ have acknowledged the lack of technical engagement among Members. The proposed draft decision on SSM principally seeks to address this very aspect of the SSM negotiations by encouraging Members to organize technical discussions around five major themes, namely, evaluation of import surges and price decreases; triggers and cross-check; remedies; scope, including coverage and the treatment of preferential trade, and transparency and other issues. The identification of these thematic elements is based on the SSM Facilitator-led process and the final report of the Facilitator. Considering my agreement with the Facilitator on the role of the SSG in facilitating the technical discussions on SSM, I have made a proposal along these lines in my draft text.

7.2. I have taken note of the recent proposal by the African Group¹⁰ covering both price-based and volume-based SSM. I encourage both the proponents and non-proponents to engage so as to better appreciate each other's positions.

8 PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING FOR FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES (PSH)

8.1. Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (PSH) is a priority issue for the proponents who have repeatedly stressed its usefulness as a tool for addressing food security and rural livelihoods, especially in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, they have urged the adoption of a permanent solution by MC12 that is simple, efficient, and broader in coverage.

8.2. While Members acknowledge the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial mandates to find a permanent solution and recognize its potential role as a food security instrument, the non-proponents remain particularly concerned about potential trade distortions and the prospect of unlimited market price support being granted to PSH programmes of developing country Members. Several Members have argued that PSH programmes represent one tool among many that can be used to ensure food security and have called for the use of measures with minimal trade-distorting potential. These Members also consider enhanced transparency requirements and safeguards crucial to providing them with reassurances against unintended consequences.

8.3. Given the widely divergent views of Members, I have found it very challenging to propose a way forward on this issue. Taking into account the proposals by Members and the views expressed during my consultations with a wide range of Members, as well as documents and analysis put

⁶ JOB/AG/202.

⁷ It is noted that the C-4 informed Members that the Group is working on a new contribution.

⁸ JOB/AG/201.

⁹ JOB/AG/202.

¹⁰ JOB/AG/205 and Corr.1

forward in recent years, my first option proposed below draws inspiration from the draft text circulated at MC11 and recent submissions made by Members.¹¹

8.4. The second option proposes a way forward with an intermediary step to be taken at MC12.

9 TRANSPARENCY

9.1. Transparency is considered as an important cross-cutting issue by several Members, as illustrated by a recent submission by some Members.¹² The text should be considered in light of the various transparency-related provisions included in the proposed decisions on the various negotiating topics aimed at finding a comprehensive way forward on this issue after MC12 in the Committee on Agriculture which may necessitate changes to document G/AG/2.

9.2. The text also addresses the role of the Secretariat in respect of technical assistance and the development of IT tools.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1. Let me now conclude with a few words on the way forward.

10.2. The draft text will soon be circulated to you along with my explanation. The next CoA Special Session meeting is scheduled for 7-8 September. The main objective of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to provide your initial comments and discuss the way forward.

10.3. On my side, I will reconvene my consultations in various configurations to prepare the ground for the continuation of our negotiation process during the fall and prepare for the next CoA-SS meeting. As always, my door remains open for any Member willing to contact me.

10.4. I invite you to take advantage of the summer break to study this text carefully in a constructive spirit. As already mentioned, we will have less than three months left before MC12 when we come back from vacation. We need also to be mindful that Members will be negotiating other topics in parallel to agriculture.

10.5. The moment has come to find compromises and solutions, and to adapt our expectations, where appropriate. It is my sincere hope that this text will help Members to chart a way forward in the negotiations.

10.6. I encourage you to use this text to intensify negotiations with each other. My role as Chair is not to negotiate with you, it is to facilitate negotiations amongst you as this is the only way for an agreement to be reached at MC12 and beyond. I will remain an honest broker and count on your full support as we enter into the last stretch of the negotiation. Working together and exercising the necessary flexibility, we can achieve a credible outcome on agriculture at MC12.

10.7. I expect you to enhance your engagements after the summer by having focused and interactive discussions and avoiding repeating long held positions. We need to keep in view the broader objective of having these negotiations, which can make a difference in people's lives.

10.8. I thank you.

¹¹ Relevant documents in this regard include the Minister Facilitator text at MC11 circulated on 12 December 2017, JOB/AG/204, JOB/AG/206, JOB/AG/214, JOB/AG/201 and JOB/AG210.

¹² JOB/AG/213.

ANNEX: DRAFT CHAIR TEXT ON AGRICULTURE

DOMESTIC SUPPORT

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Recalling the long-term objective to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system and to provide for substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection sustained over an agreed period of time, resulting in correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets as stated in the Preamble of the Agreement on Agriculture;

Decides as follows:

Members agree on the following principles for the negotiation of new disciplines on Domestic Support:

1. Members commit to capping and reducing the sum of current global agricultural trade- and production-distorting domestic support entitlements by at least half by 2030 [alternatively: Members commit to a substantial reduction of trade- and production-distorting domestic support entitlements] according to modalities to be negotiated.
2. To this end, these negotiations shall take into consideration all forms of trade- and production-distorting domestic support under Article 6 of the Agreement on Agriculture [taking into account the different potential of each category to distort production and trade]. [Developing countries shall be accorded special and differential treatment, including for domestic support provided by them to low income or resource poor farmers under Article 6.2.] [Members agree to address AMS above *de minimis* entitlements with the aim of reducing subsidy concentration and to level the playing field.]
3. The contributions by individual Members in these reductions will need to be proportionate to the size of those Members' current entitlements and their potential impact on global markets, taking into account the individual circumstances and development needs of Members, [to ensure the global target is reached by 2030].
4. LDCs will not be required to undertake any new reduction commitments.
5. Members note the importance of the implementation of existing notification obligations under Article 18 of the Agreement on Agriculture and undertake to make the necessary efforts to provide all outstanding DS:1 notifications to enhance transparency with respect to existing domestic support commitments. [Members undertake to provide the value of production data as part of their DS:1 notifications.]
6. [Members shall consider reviewing and clarifying Annex 2 criteria and related transparency requirements, where necessary, to ensure that relevant domestic support measures have no, or at most minimal trade-distorting effects or effects on production.]
7. [Members also commit to simplifying and updating the current transparency requirements in G/AG/2, taking due account of the capacity constraints of some Members.]

MARKET ACCESS

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

GUIDELINES TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY IN APPLIED TARIFF RATE CHANGES

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement");

Recognizing that transparency and a predictable trading environment are fundamental elements of the multilateral trading system;

Underscoring the need for Members to take steps to ensure international trade remains predictable;

Desiring to enhance transparency and predictability in the application of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) applied tariff rates without causing undue burden on Members' customs administration;

Understanding that unexpected increases in MFN applied tariff rates by Members can create uncertainty for traders, as well as additional costs, and can be a significant disincentive to trade;

Reaffirming Members rights to adjust MFN applied tariff rates consistent with their respective Goods Market Access Schedule.

Decides as follows:

Scope:

1. This Decision applies to changes in MFN applied tariffs in respect of both agricultural and non-agricultural goods.

Best Practices in the application of changes¹ to MFN applied tariff rates:

2. In order to promote predictability in the application of changes to MFN applied tariff rates, whilst recognizing that Members have different domestic frameworks and customs administration practices, Members agree that the options presented in Annex 1 to this Decision represent best practices in the application of such changes.
3. Members also agree to examine options to inform the WTO as soon as practicable of MFN applied tariff changes as part of broader efforts to improve transparency in the WTO.

Application of Best Practices:

4. Recognizing that Members have different domestic frameworks and customs administration practices, Members [shall][should] apply at least one of the best practices listed in Annex 1 of this Decision.
5. Least Developed Country (LDC) Members in a position to do so should apply [at least] one of the best practices listed in Annex 1 of this Decision.

Ongoing Development of Best Practices:

6. Members recognize that additional best practices may be developed to improve predictability and transparency when an MFN applied tariff rate changes.
7. To this end, Members are encouraged to present additional best practices to the Committee on Market Access (CMA), which will be responsible for an annual review of this Decision. If

¹ A Member may decide not to apply this Decision in cases where MFN applied tariffs are lowered.

no objections are raised in the annual review, the best practice(s) shall be added to the list in Annex 1 to this Decision.

Notification:

8. Members [shall] [are encouraged to] notify to the CMA the best practice(s) they use, outlined in Annex 1 to this Decision, no later than [12] [6] months after the adoption of this Decision. Members [shall] [should] notify to the CMA of subsequent changes to their practices.
9. If a Member is not in a position to implement one of the best practices presented in Annex 1 to this Decision, the Member [shall][should] notify to the CMA its current practice in this matter.
10. Members [should][shall] use the template in Annex 2 to this Decision to notify their practice(s) to the WTO.²
11. The WTO Secretariat shall maintain a list of practices notified by Members.
12. Members facing resource constraints in meeting this notification shall, upon request from another Member, provide information on the current practice(s) used by them.

Technical Assistance:

13. Upon request, the WTO Secretariat shall provide technical assistance to [developing] Members who encounter challenges in applying a best practice presented in Annex 1 to this Decision. In addition, [developing] Members and LDCs are encouraged to reach out to Members to discuss how to apply the best practice(s) or develop a best practice that fits their domestic system.

² Information on notified practices submitted pursuant to this Decision is for transparency purposes and does not prejudice its consistency or otherwise with provisions of relevant WTO Agreements.

ANNEX 1

BEST PRACTICES IN THE APPLICATION OF CHANGES TO MFN APPLIED TARIFF RATES

1. Provide an approach for shipments or consignments *en route*¹ to be eligible to benefit from the tariff treatment in effect at the time such shipments or consignments begin their final journey from the country of exportation.
2. Provide in advance clear guidance on how a tariff will change in response to defined factors, such as changes in market prices or indexation against inflation.
3. Provide the ability to pre-pay customs duties on shipments, according to the domestic laws of the importing Member, so that the importer pays the tariff in effect at the time the goods begin their final journey from the country of exportation.
4. Provide a public notice prior to coming into force of a change in an applied tariff rate.²

¹ The Oxford English Dictionary defines *en route* as "On the way, in the course of the journey". It can be inferred that the product will soon be exported or has been exported to a destination market, and the exporter may thus not account for the impact of the applied tariff changes on the shipment in question. A Member may have a more precise definition or may provide guidance on its application.

² For example, this could be XX days prior notice. This option includes such actions as equivalent to public notice (e.g., appropriate disclosure of provisional information to the public on the amendment of applied tariff) as long as the compliance with Article X:2 of the GATT 1994 is secured.

ANNEX 2

TEMPLATE TO [INFORM/NOTIFY] CURRENT PRACTICE IN
THE APPLICATION OF MFN APPLIED TARIFF RATE CHANGES

Member: XYZ

Date: Day/Month/Year

1. Description of Current Practice when an applied MFN tariff rate changes (including relevant weblinks, if applicable):

2. Corresponding Best Practice from Annex 1 (check practice applicable)¹

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

¹ This template would be updated as new best practices are agreed.

ELEMENTS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF WORK POST-MC12

MARKET ACCESS

1. Members agree to reinvigorate the negotiations on agricultural market access with a view to reducing the level of protection and creating meaningful market access opportunities. Members commit to achieving enhanced market access outcomes through incremental steps.
 2. Negotiations shall be based on the following guiding principles:
 - i. Tariff reductions will be made from bound rates with deeper cuts in higher tariffs in order to achieve substantial progressive reduction in tariff levels. Each Member (other than LDCs) will make a contribution based on the negotiating modalities and parameters to be agreed.
 - ii. Negotiating modalities shall take into account the different elements of the Market Access pillar and across other pillars, particularly the Domestic Support pillar.
 - iii. The treatment of non-tariff barriers within the framework of the agriculture market access negotiations shall be explored.
 - iv. Account shall be taken of special and differential treatment for developing country Members and non-trade concerns of Members.
 3. To pave the way for informed discussions on tariff reduction modalities, Members agree to notify *ad valorem* equivalents (AVEs) of non-*ad valorem* tariffs in their Schedules with an explanation of data and calculations used within [x] months after MC12.
 4. Members commit to enhance transparency and monitoring in the area of agricultural market access [, including by streamlining as necessary the existing notification requirements and formats under G/AG/2]. Members also agree to making all efforts to comply with current notification obligations under this pillar.
-

EXPORT COMPETITION

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to Paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Recalling that the 2015 Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition (WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980) constituted an historic achievement in the reform of agricultural trade with the elimination of export subsidies and the introduction of new disciplines on export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, international food aid, and agricultural exporting state trading enterprises;

Emphasizing the importance of transparency in the Export Competition pillar to ensure an effective monitoring of the implementation of the Nairobi Decision by the Committee on Agriculture as well as to gain a better understanding of the various policies in place and to assist Members to negotiate possible additional disciplines focussing on the impact of measures with equivalent effect on international markets;

Building on the experience gained by Members in the Committee on Agriculture in reviewing Members' practices in relation to export competition following the adoption of the Nairobi Decision;

Taking note of the proposals made by Members in this regard;

Decides as follows:

1. Members reaffirm their commitment to ensure an effective implementation and monitoring of the Nairobi Decision.
2. Members welcome in this regard the two Triennial Reviews of the Nairobi Decision undertaken by the Committee on Agriculture in 2018 and 2021, pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Nairobi Decision [including the report adopted by the Committee on Agriculture as a result of the Second Triennial Review in document G/AG/XX][, and commit to successfully conclude the Second Triennial Review at the first 2022 meeting of the Committee on Agriculture].
3. With a view to better assisting Members in the implementation of the Nairobi Decision, Members invite the WTO Secretariat to pursue efforts to provide support as appropriate, based on a proper assessment of the challenges encountered by developing country Members who are not yet accustomed to responding to the annual Export Competition Questionnaire, including through *ad hoc* advice, information sessions, technical assistance and capacity-building support.
4. Members agree to adopt the improvements to the annual export competition questionnaire as set out in Annex I. For Members facing difficulties in providing export data by product or product group¹, the WTO Secretariat shall provide these data upon request by such Members.²
5. With a view to providing contextual information to Members' replies to the Export Competition Questionnaire, the WTO Secretariat shall also provide as a complement to the export data by product or product group by Member¹, annual data on total world exports for the corresponding product or product group.²

¹ As foreseen in item 9 of the section on export credit, export credit guarantees or insurance programs, item 8 of the section on international food aid and item 4 of the section on agricultural exporting state trading enterprises in Annex I.

² These data shall be based on the definition in terms of the Harmonized System classification for the respective product or product group provided by the Member, and be sourced from officially available international databases, data provided by WTO Members to the WTO Secretariat or other relevant easily accessible well-recognized sources.

6. [In light of the changes introduced in the area of Export Competition following the adoption of the Nairobi Decision, Members commit to explore ways through an evidence-based process to streamline, update and clarify the notification requirements and formats under G/AG/2 in conjunction with the annual Export Competition Questionnaire taking into account the capacity constraints of some Members.]
7. Members reaffirm their commitment to continue, after MC12, negotiations on Export Competition building on the evidence amassed during the review undertaken in the Committee on Agriculture, with a view to enhancing disciplines on export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, agricultural exporting state trading enterprises and international food aid, to ensure that there is no circumvention of the relevant disciplines which undermines export subsidy elimination commitments and to prevent non-commercial transactions from being used to circumvent such commitments. [Flexibilities, when appropriate, may include *inter alia* longer implementation periods.]

ANNEX I**EXPORT CREDIT, EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES OR INSURANCE PROGRAMS (EXPORT FINANCING)**

Consistent with the Bali Ministerial Declaration on Export Competition, Members shall continue to provide information on Export Credit, Export Credit Guarantees or Insurance Programs within the context of an annual examination process, based on the following structure:

1. Description of the program (classification within the following categories: direct financing support, risk cover, government to government credit agreements or any other form of governmental export credit support) and relevant legislation
2. Description of Export Financing Entity
3. Total value of export of agricultural products covered by export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programs and use per program
4. Annual average premium rates/fees per program
5. Maximum repayment terms per program
6. Annual average repayment periods per program
7. Export destination or group of destinations per program
8. Program use by product or product group
9. [To the extent possible], annual data on total exports of the product or product group covered by export financing programs.

FOOD AID

Consistent with the Bali Ministerial Declaration on Export Competition, Members shall continue to provide information on International Food Aid within the context of an annual examination process, based on the following structure:

1. Product description
2. Quantity and/or value of food aid provided
3. Description of whether food aid is provided on in-kind, untied cash-based basis and whether monetization was permitted
4. Description of whether in fully grant form or concessional terms
5. Description of relevant needs assessment (and by whom) and whether food aid is responding to a declaration of emergency or an emergency appeal (and by whom)
6. Description of whether re-export of food aid is an option under the terms of the provision of food aid
7. []
8. [To the extent possible], annual data on total exports of the product or product group for which the Member provides international food aid.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTING STATE TRADING ENTERPRISES

Consistent with the Bali Ministerial Declaration on Export Competition, Members shall continue to provide information on Agricultural Exporting State Trading Enterprises within the context of an annual examination process, based on the following structure:

1. Enumeration of State Trading Enterprises
 - Identification of state trading enterprises
 - Description of products affected (*including tariff item number(s) encompassed in product description*).

2. Reason and purpose
 - Reason or purpose for establishing and/or maintaining state trading enterprise
 - Summary of legal basis for granting the relevant exclusive or special rights or privileges, including legal provisions and summary of statutory or constitutional powers.
3. Description of the functioning of the State Trading Enterprise
 - Summary statement providing overview of operations of the state trading enterprise
 - Specification of exclusive or special rights or privileges enjoyed by the state trading enterprise.
4. [To the extent possible], annual data on total exports of the products affected.

Additional information subject to normal commercial confidentiality considerations

1. Exports (value/volume)
 2. Export prices
 3. Export destination.
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EXPORT PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to Paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Recalling and reaffirming Article 12 of the Agreement on Agriculture and Article XI of GATT 1994;

In view of the critical humanitarian support provided by the World Food Programme, made more urgent in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises,

With the understanding that the World Food Programme always takes procurement decisions on the basis of its principles to "do no harm" to the supplying Member and promote local and regional food procurement,

Emphasizing the importance of transparency and effective monitoring of export prohibitions and restrictions of foodstuffs to a predictable international trading environment and international food security, including in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Taking note of the proposals made by Members in this regard;

Decides as follows:

1. Members shall not impose export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuffs purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme. [It is understood that Members' food security shall not be jeopardized as a result of these purchases.]
2. For the purposes of Article 12.1(b) of the Agreement on Agriculture, any Member instituting any export prohibitions or restrictions to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs in accordance with Article XI.2(a) of GATT 1994 shall [, where possible,] give notice in writing to the Committee on Agriculture of the measure no later than [30 days], prior to the coming into force of the measure. [However, where critical shortage of foodstuffs is caused by an event constituting *force majeure*, the [30 days] prior notification period need not apply. In such circumstances, the Member shall give notice in writing, as far in advance as practicable to the Committee on Agriculture, but no later than [10 days] after it takes effect.]
3. The provisions in paragraph 2 of this Decision shall not apply to (i) any least developed country or net food-importing developing country (NFIDC)¹ Member instituting new temporary export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuffs; or (ii) any other developing country Member instituting new temporary export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuffs, unless the measure is taken by a developing country Member which is a net-food exporter of the specific foodstuff concerned.
4. With a view to better assisting Members in the implementation of Articles 12 and 18 of the Agreement on Agriculture, Members invite the WTO Secretariat to:
 - 4.1 pursue efforts to assist developing country Members to comply with the relevant notification requirements, including through *ad hoc* advice, technical assistance and capacity-building support, and
 - 4.2 provide annual data on volumes and values of exports and imports by Members, covering agriculture products as defined in Annex I of the Agreement on Agriculture.²

¹ As listed in the latest revision of G/AG/5.

² These data shall be sourced from officially available international databases, data provided by WTO Members to the WTO Secretariat or other relevant easily accessible well-recognized sources.

5. Members reaffirm their right to have recourse to paragraphs 6 and 7 of Article 18 of the Agreement on Agriculture in relation to export prohibitions or restrictions.
6. Members having recourse to the consultation mechanism pursuant to Article 12.1.(b) of the Agreement on Agriculture shall endeavour to report to the Committee on Agriculture the progress made in the consultations as early as practicable.
7. [Members commit to exploring ways to update and clarify the notification requirements and formats under G/AG/2, taking due account of the capacity constraints of some Members. These may include clarifications related to the description of the critical shortages justifying the imposition of the measure or the way in which due consideration was given to the effects on importing Members' food security.]
8. Members shall continue negotiations on ways to improve the transparency and predictability of export prohibitions and restrictions after MC12, including by looking at ways to clarify relevant WTO provisions, including in relation to notification requirements for measures of long duration.

COTTON

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to Paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Noting the vital importance of cotton to a number of developing economies, particularly the least-developed amongst them;

Taking into account recent trends in cotton markets, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Emphasizing in this regard the importance of transparency and effective monitoring of cotton-related trade measures impacting cotton trade and markets;

Welcoming the specific cotton-related transparency and monitoring mechanisms put in place as a result of previous Ministerial Conferences, including the Cotton portal launched on the occasion of MC11;

Decides as follows:

TRADE RELATED COMPONENT

1. Members undertake to continue holding Dedicated Discussions on cotton on a bi-annual basis, as mandated by paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the Bali Ministerial Decision on Cotton (WT/MIN(13)/41 - WT/L/916) and confirmed in paragraph 14 of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Cotton (WT/MIN(15)/46 - WT/L/981).
2. Members undertake to continue monitoring the implementation of commitments contained in the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Cotton across the three pillars of Market Access, Domestic Support, and Export Competition during the Dedicated Discussions on Cotton, based on relevant Members' notifications to the WTO, complemented as necessary by Members' replies to specific requests for information from the WTO Secretariat.
3. Members welcome the work undertaken during the Dedicated Discussions on Cotton to monitor cotton trade and markets including through side events, notably in relation to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cotton sector and commend WTO partners participating in this exercise.
4. Members acknowledge the statement on the WTO Cotton negotiations adopted by a group of Members on 7 October 2019 (JOB/AG/165) and commit to intensify discussions on factors negatively impacting cotton trade and markets and to continue efforts aimed at enhancing transparency and the monitoring of cotton-related trade measures.
5. [To this end, Members commit in particular to explore ways to enhance collection, processing, and circulation of cotton-related relevant data including by updating and clarifying as necessary the bi-annual cotton questionnaire and the notification requirements and formats under G/AG/2, taking due account of the capacity constraints of some Members.]
6. Having regard to the Ministerial Decision on Domestic Support (*symbol document*), Members agree to continue negotiations on the reduction of trade-distorting domestic support for cotton post-MC12 in accordance with the mandate to address cotton ambitiously, expeditiously, and specifically within the agriculture negotiations. The negotiations shall be based on Members' existing and future submissions, as well as on up-to-date domestic support notifications.
7. Members agree to review progress in respect of cotton at the 13th Ministerial Conference and adopt any necessary decisions. In that regard, Members invite the Director-General to submit a report to the Conference on the progress made in implementing the trade-related components of this Decision, including on the negotiations on cotton trade domestic support.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMPONENT

8. [To be developed.]
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SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Reaffirming the Ministerial Decision of 19 December 2015 (WT/MIN(15)/43 - WT/L/978);

In the context of addressing outstanding agricultural issues; and

Taking note of the proposals made by Members in this regard;

Decides as follows:

1. Pursuant to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision (WT/MIN(15)/43 - WT/L/978), Members shall continue to pursue negotiations on a special safeguard mechanism for developing country Members in dedicated sessions of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session (CoA-SS).
 2. In order to make progress in the negotiations, Members shall engage in enhanced technical discussions on the following specific themes identified in the Facilitator-led SSM process: evaluation of import surges and price decreases; triggers and cross-check; remedies; scope, including coverage and the treatment of preferential trade; and transparency and other issues.
 3. Technical discussions shall be guided by the Special Safeguard (SSG) provisions in Article 5 of the Agreement on Agriculture taking into account the experience gained in its implementation since 1995.
 4. The General Council shall regularly review progress in these negotiations.
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PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING FOR FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES**DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION 1**

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Acknowledging the Ministerial Decision of 7 December 2013 (WT/MIN(13)/38 - WT/L/913), the General Council Decision of 27 November 2014 (WT/L/939) and the Ministerial Decision of 19 December 2015 (WT/MIN(15)/44 - WT/L/979); and

Recognizing the importance of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes for developing country Members [as further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic];

Decides as follows:

1. By this Decision, Members agree to put in place a permanent solution as set out below on public stockholding for food security purposes. This Decision replaces the interim solution (WT/MIN(13)/38 - WT/L/913) for Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes adopted in Bali, Indonesia in December 2013, as clarified in the General Council Decision of 27 November 2014 (WT/L/939).
2. Provided that the conditions set out in paragraphs 3 to 6 are met, Members shall not challenge through the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism, compliance of a developing country Member with its obligations under Articles 6.3 and 7.2(b) of the Agreement on Agriculture in relation to support provided for [any foodstuff covered thereof]/[traditional staple food crops¹] in pursuance of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes^{2,3}, that are consistent with the criteria of paragraph 3, footnote 5, and footnote 5&6 of Annex 2 to the Agreement on Agriculture.

NOTIFICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

3. To benefit from this Decision, a developing country Member must:
 - a. have provided, prior to the notification under sub-paragraph (b) below, general information about each public stockholding programme that it maintains for food security purposes under paragraph 2 by completing entries 2-4 of the template contained in the Annex⁴;
 - b. have notified the Committee on Agriculture at the latest as per sub-paragraph (c) below, that it is exceeding or is at risk of exceeding either or both of its Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) limits (the Member's Bound Total AMS or the *de minimis* level) as a result of its programmes mentioned above;
 - c. have fulfilled for the initial year in which it invokes this Decision and continue to fulfil during the entire period that it invokes this Decision, its domestic support notification

¹ This term refers to primary agricultural products that are predominant staples in the traditional diet of a developing Member.

² This Decision should be read as covering public stockholding programmes for food security purposes existing as of 7 December 2013 as well as new programmes introduced after this date by least developed country Members, and those by developing country Members [with an upper limit of total procurement not exceeding [15%] of the domestic production quantity of the crop in question].

³ This Decision does not preclude developing country Members from introducing programmes of public stockholding for food security purposes in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture.

⁴ This is without prejudice to the existing domestic support notification requirement in G/AG/2 pursuant to Article 18.3 of the Agreement on Agriculture.

requirements under the Agreement on Agriculture in accordance with document G/AG/2 of 30 June 1995, but not later than the period specified in the Annex;

- d. have provided for the initial year in which it invokes this Decision, and continue to provide on an annual basis during the entire period it invokes this decision, additional information, along with the notification as per sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) above, by completing the template contained in the Annex, for each public stockholding programme that it maintains for food security purposes; and
- e. provide any additional relevant statistical information described in the Statistical Appendix to the Annex as soon as possible after it becomes available, as well as any information updating or correcting any information already submitted.

ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION/SAFEGUARDS

4. Any developing country Member seeking coverage of its programmes under paragraph 2 shall ensure that stocks procured under such programmes do not distort trade or adversely affect the food security of other Members.⁵
5. This Decision shall not be used in a manner that results in an increase of the support subject to the Member's Bound Total AMS or the *de minimis* limits provided under programmes other than those notified under sub-paragraph 3(b).

CONSULTATIONS

6. A developing country Member benefiting from this Decision shall upon request hold consultations with other Members on the operation of its public stockholding programmes notified under sub-paragraph 3(b) and provide the necessary information.

MONITORING

7. The Committee on Agriculture shall monitor the information submitted under this Decision.

FINAL PROVISIONS

8. This Decision shall not be construed to impede the Uruguay Round agricultural reform programme aimed at correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets as stated in the preamble to the Agreement on Agriculture. Accordingly, developing country Members invoking this Decision for their public stockholding programmes, [and who are in a position to do so], [shall]/[shall endeavour] to undertake the necessary reforms in order to bring them back into compliance with their domestic support obligations under this Agreement.

⁵ Members confirm their understanding that the stocks procured under such programmes shall be used exclusively for food security purposes and not be exported. [This understanding shall not apply to food purchases by the World Food Programme for non-commercial humanitarian purposes.]

ANNEX

TEMPLATE

[Developing Country Member's name]

General information

1. Factual information confirming that DS:1 notification and relevant supporting tables have been submitted no later than [24 months] after the end of the reporting year. (e.g., date and document details)
2. Details of the programme sufficient to identify food security objective and scale of the programme, including:
a. Name of the programme
b. Traditional staple food crop(s) covered
c. Agency in charge of implementation
d. Relevant laws and regulations
e. Date of commencement of the programme
f. Officially published objective criteria or guidelines
3. Practical description of how the programme operates, including:
a. Provisions relating to the purchase of stocks, including the way the administered acquisition price is determined
b. Provisions related to volume and accumulation of stocks, including any provisions related to pre-determined targets and quantitative limits
c. Provisions related to the release of stocks, including the determination of the release price and targeting (eligibility to receive procured stocks)
4. A description of any measures aimed at minimising production or trade distortive effects of the programme
5. Statistical information (as per the Statistical Appendix below)
6. Any other information considered relevant, including website references

Statistical Appendix (per crop) (data for the latest three years)

	Unit	[Year 1]	[Year 2]	[Year 3]
[Name of the crop]				
a. Opening balance of stocks				
b. Annual purchases under the programme (value)				
c. Annual purchases under the programme (quantity)				
d. Annual releases under the programme (value)				
e. Annual releases under the programme (quantity)				
f. Purchase prices				
g. Release prices				
h. End-year stocks				
i. Total production (quantity)				
j. Total production (value)				
k. Information on population benefiting from the release of this product and quantities released:				
- Estimated number of beneficiaries at national level and, if possible, at sub-national level				
- Quantity released to the beneficiaries at the national level and, if possible, at the sub-national level				
- Other				
l. In the case of government aid to private storage, statistics on the support granted and any updated statistics				
m. Total imports (value)				
n. Total imports (quantity)				
o. Total exports (value)				
p. Total exports (quantity)				

PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING FOR FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION 2

The *Ministerial Conference*,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Acknowledging the Ministerial Decision of 7 December 2013 (WT/MIN(13)/38 - WT/L/913), the General Council Decision of 27 November 2014 (WT/L/939) and the Ministerial Decision of 19 December 2015 (WT/MIN(15)/44 - WT/L/979);

Recognizing the importance of public stockholding programmes for food security purposes for developing country members [as further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic]; and

Taking note of the proposals made by Members in this regard;

Decides as follows:

1. Pursuant to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision (WT/MIN(15)/44 - WT/L/979), Members shall continue to pursue negotiations and make all concerted efforts to agree and adopt a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes in dedicated sessions of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session (CoA-SS).
 2. [In the interim, Members agree to extend the Interim Solution established by the Ministerial Decision of 7 December 2013 (WT/MIN(13)/38 - WT/L/913) and the General Council Decision of 27 November 2014 (WT/L/939) to public stockholding programmes for food security purposes of least developed countries enacted after 7 December 2013.]
 3. The General Council shall regularly review progress in these negotiations.
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TRANSPARENCY

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The *Ministerial Conference*,

Having regard to paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization;

Emphasizing the importance of transparency at the WTO, and in particular its contribution towards ensuring fair, effective, and resilient agricultural markets;

In the context of modernizing and streamlining transparency obligations in order to make them more useful whilst not unreasonably burdensome;

Welcoming the various transparency enhancing elements contained in other Ministerial Decisions adopted as part of the outcome on agriculture at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference;

Taking note of the proposals made by Members in this regard;

Decides as follows:

1. Further to the provisions in Article 18 of the Agreement on Agriculture and in document G/AG/2 of 30 June 1995 on "*Notification requirements and formats*", Members commit to enhancing transparency to improve monitoring in all areas of agriculture.
 2. The WTO Secretariat is directed to provide information on a regular basis to the Committee on Agriculture on available technical assistance, including examples of recent cooperation, in an effort to assist Members in preparing notifications pursuant to document G/AG/2 and fulfilling other relevant transparency and monitoring requirements.
 3. Members welcome the development of information technology (IT) tools through the Agriculture Informational Management System (Ag-IMS) to facilitate data processing and on-line data submission by Members in implementing their notifications obligations pursuant to document G/AG/2 and other relevant transparency and monitoring requirements.
 4. [Members agree to establish a work programme under the auspices of the Committee on Agriculture to implement all revisions and additions to document G/AG/2 that Members agreed to explore in other Ministerial Decisions adopted as part of the outcome on agriculture at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference by *[date]*.]
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