Excellencies,

For the vast majority of Members, food and agriculture is a core priority in the WTO negotiations ahead of MC12. But the truth is that negotiations have been at an impasse because of a lack of consensus on the Chair’s text.

The world is now also confronted with a looming food crisis that requires the WTO to deliver a credible response.

In this context, we have consulted Members over the last two weeks, building upon the intensive work and discussions undertaken by Members thus far, with a view to supporting Members’ efforts to develop draft texts that could serve as a useful basis to reach a positive outcome on food and agriculture at MC12.

In this regard, three texts have been developed based on these consultations.

I. A draft Ministerial Decision on agriculture,
II. A draft Ministerial Declaration on food security and
III. A draft Ministerial Decision on World Food Programme food purchases exemption from export prohibitions or restrictions.

The whole Membership will now have the opportunity to provide comments on the texts during the CoA Special Session meeting and dedicated discussions at Heads of Delegations level scheduled on Wednesday, 1 June at 10 am.

With 12 days left to the opening of MC12, we sincerely hope these draft texts will provide the necessary impetus to enable the WTO to provide a meaningful response to the significant and urgent challenges faced by the global food and agriculture system in the world today. The intention is to finalize these texts based on members comments for ministerial consideration and approval at MC12.

Please accept, excellencies, the expression of our highest consideration.

Chair of the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture

[Signature]

Ambassador Gloria Abraham Peralta

Director-General and Chairperson of the Trade Negotiations Committee

[Signature]

H.E. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

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