

Ngozi OKONJO-IWEALA  
Director-General

22 November 2023

Excellency,

We are writing in connection with the virtual mini-Ministerial meeting on agriculture which would be held on Tuesday, 28 November 2023 from 12:30 to 15:30 (CET).

Attached, you will find a summary of the state of play in the agriculture negotiations prepared by the Secretariat under its own responsibility. It is intended to facilitate the discussions by Ministers.


The objective of this meeting is for Ministers to provide clear political guidance to enable Members in the CoA Special Session process to overcome the stumbling blocks that have prevented substantive progress in the agriculture negotiations since they were launched in 2000. Ministers would therefore not be expected to delve into the technical details of the negotiating issues. In that regard, Ministers would be expected to deliberate on the following two questions:

Q1: Some Members are demanding a holistic approach to the negotiations leading to comprehensive outcomes in all the negotiating areas, while others are seeking stand-alone outcomes on issues of priority to them. Still others believe that there are some low hanging fruits which could realistically be harvested at MC13. What guidance could Ministers give to reconcile these opposing views?

Q2: Considering the state of play in the agriculture negotiations, what political direction and guidance can Ministers give to negotiators in Geneva to support the CoA Special Session Chair's process and ensure a meaningful outcome on agriculture at MC13?

This is a **virtual** mini-Ministerial meeting. Participating Ministers will receive the details on how to connect to the meeting in due course. To ensure transparency, there will be a **listening-in room** at the WTO in Room W for all Members to follow the discussions. Given room capacity constraints, and to ensure that every delegation has an equal opportunity, access will be limited to **HODs + 1**. Interpretation in the three official WTO languages will be provided.

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**Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**  
UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade  
MC13 Chair



**Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**  
WTO Director General