



**Ministerial Conference
Twelfth Session
Geneva, 12-15 June 2022**

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION ON AGRICULTURE

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 (AoA);

Having regard that special and differential treatment is an integral part of the agriculture negotiations as stated in the Preamble of the AoA;

Considering the importance of further levelling the playing field for global agricultural trade in order to realize the full potential of the agricultural reform process;

Recognizing the role that a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system plays in supporting progress towards the targets set out under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including to end poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture and food systems, implement resilient agricultural practices, enhance productivity and production, and strengthen the policy response to climate change and natural disasters through both mitigation and adaptation actions;

Taking note of the achievements in the negotiations to date, as well as the need to make further progress in order to fulfil existing mandates relevant to the agriculture negotiations, as set out in Article 20 of the AoA, and the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Decisions, to achieve a balanced outcome.

Decides as follows:

1. We commit to continue our negotiations to establish a fair and market-oriented agriculture trading system by reducing support and protection progressively and substantially in achieving meaningful reform, bearing in mind all existing negotiating mandates. We reaffirm that special and differential treatment for developing countries is an integral part of all the negotiating topics listed below. Particular consideration shall be given to the needs of least-developed and net food-importing developing countries. Non-trade concerns, including food security and the protection of the environment shall also be taken into account in all areas of these negotiations.
2. We resolve to intensify our negotiations on the topics listed below, with a view to achieving modalities and other outcomes by the Thirteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference (MC13). These negotiations shall build on progress made thus far in the negotiations under the auspices of the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA-SS), including in dedicated sessions, and Members' existing and future submissions. Technical discussions shall support the negotiations to facilitate informed participation by all Members.

Domestic Support

3. We shall continue comprehensive negotiations on domestic support after MC12, in particular, to substantially reduce trade-distorting domestic support and to improving all disciplines, within a reasonable timeframe to be agreed by Members, in accordance with the reform programme provided for in Article 20 of the AoA and the modalities that will be agreed and adopted by MC13.
4. Unless otherwise provided, Members' contributions to the outcomes of these negotiations will be determined according to modalities to be agreed by Members post-MC12. In this respect, the needs of low-income or resource-poor farmers in developing countries shall be taken into account in these negotiations.

Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes¹

5. Recalling 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 21 December 2015 (WT/MIN(15)/44 - WT/L/979), and recognizing the importance attached to public stockholding programmes for food security purposes by many developing country Members, including least developed and net food importing developing countries and the food security of other Members, we undertake to continue our negotiations and work towards agreeing and adopting a permanent solution to the PSH issue by MC13.
6. These comprehensive negotiations shall consider, *inter alia*, an assessment of the external reference price², programme and product coverage, limits on public stockholding programmes, transparency and safeguards/anti-circumvention, and legal certainty.
7. The negotiations shall continue to be held in dedicated sessions of the CoA-SS. The General Council shall regularly review progress on the basis of reports provided by the CoA-SS.

Market Access

8. We shall continue negotiations on market access after MC12 with a view to improving substantially and progressively agricultural market access opportunities for all Members within a timeframe to be agreed by Members, in accordance with the reform programme provided for in Article 20 of the AoA.
9. We agree to work towards achieving tangible progress in the negotiations by MC13.

Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM)

10. Pursuant to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision (WT/MIN(15)/43 - WT/L/978), we shall continue negotiations on a special safeguard mechanism for developing country Members in dedicated sessions of the CoA-SS as envisaged under paragraph 7 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(05)/DEC).
11. The General Council shall regularly review progress in these negotiations with the aim of making recommendations for Ministers at MC13.

Export Restrictions

12. Bearing in mind Article 12 of the AoA, we shall continue negotiations with the aim of enhancing transparency and predictability of export prohibitions and restrictions and improving relevant disciplines. To this end, and taking into account Article 12.2, we agree to work towards assessing and clarifying Article 12 of the AoA with a view to making tangible progress by MC13.

¹ This proposed Decision acknowledges that some Members have submitted proposals on a permanent solution on PSH for consideration by Ministers.

² This issue would be considered more broadly in the context of current AoA disciplines.

Export Competition

13. Taking note of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition (WT/MIN(15)/45-WT/L/980), we shall continue negotiations to enhance disciplines on export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, agricultural exporting state trading enterprises and international food aid, with a view to making tangible progress in these negotiations by MC13. These disciplines shall aim at ensuring that there is no circumvention of export subsidy elimination commitments and to prevent non-commercial transactions from being used to circumvent such commitments. Special consideration shall be given to the needs and circumstances of least-developed and net food-importing developing countries.

Cotton

14. We undertake to continue negotiations after MC12 with a view to reducing trade-distorting domestic support for cotton in accordance with modalities to be agreed by MC13 and in line with the mandate to address it ambitiously, expeditiously, and specifically within the agriculture negotiations taking into account, in particular, the overall domestic support negotiations.
15. We 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).
16. We note that the development-related aspects of cotton are addressed under the Director-General's Consultative Framework Mechanism on Cotton and welcome the work undertaken in this context, which will continue to be handled as provided for in paragraph 12 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(05)/DEC) and in paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Cotton.

Transparency

17. Pursuant to Article 18 of the AoA, we agree to make the necessary efforts to provide outstanding notifications prioritizing from the year 2010. We agree to work in the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) to review, update and streamline as necessary the transparency provisions contained in document G/AG/2 and consider possibly including necessary elements, such as value of production data, as well as other agriculture-related transparency requirements. Due consideration shall be given to the capacity constraints faced by some developing countries, especially the least developed among them.
 18. We invite the WTO Secretariat to pursue efforts to assist developing country Members, upon their request, to comply with the relevant notification and other relevant transparency and monitoring requirements, including through *ad hoc* advice, technical assistance and capacity-building support. We request the Secretariat to provide information on a regular basis to the CoA on these activities.
 19. We request the WTO Secretariat, in consultations with Members, to develop, maintain and update on a regular basis a domestic support analytical tool based on Members' notifications, Members' official sources, and recognized international sources in consultation with concerned Members.
 20. We agree to the continuation of discussions, on a without prejudice basis, on transparency of changes to MFN applied ordinary tariff rates, including for shipments *en route*.
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