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**Ministerial Conference  
Eleventh Session  
Buenos Aires, 10-13 December 2017**

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## **G-33<sup>1</sup> MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUÉ**

**Buenos Aires, 9 December 2017**

The following communication, dated 9 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the G-33.

1. We, Ministers and Representatives of the G-33 Members met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 9 December 2017, on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference to assess the current state of play of the Doha Development Agenda agriculture talks and exchange views on future work, in particular relating to the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) and the Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (PSH).
2. We welcome the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference as an important opportunity to renew the collective commitment of all WTO Members to a robust, fair, and predictable rules-based multilateral trading system. We express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Argentina for their hospitality and excellent work in hosting this Conference.
3. We reiterate the importance of agriculture for ensuring food security, livelihood security, and rural development in developing Members including Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs) and Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs) as enshrined in Doha and Hong Kong mandates. We emphasize the need for taking into consideration the development component of the agriculture negotiations and the importance of delivering on the on-going reform in agriculture and the completion of the DDA.
4. The increased volatility of food productions and prices on the global market since the food and financial crisis in 2008 has had a debilitating effect on the life of small and resource-poor farmers. It is important therefore for Members to respectfully fulfill the Nairobi Ministerial Decisions and preceding Ministerial Decisions on the needs to establish a permanent solution for Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (PSH) and an effective Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing country Members in safeguarding their food security, livelihood security and rural development interests. We also urge Members to remain cognizant of the subsistence nature of agriculture in most developing country Members including LDCs, SVEs and NFIDCs.

### **Buenos Aires Deliverables**

5. We reiterate the Nairobi Ministerial Decisions on Special Safeguard Mechanism (WT/MIN(15)/43) and Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (WT/MIN(15)/44), through which Members are mandated to continue the negotiations on both issues in the

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the G-33 are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Plurinational State of Bolivia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

dedicated sessions. These Decisions have reinforced Members' collective resolve to advance negotiations where concrete progress can be achieved including focusing on elements of the DDA and with a view to achieving an outcome that would among others rectifies some of imbalances in the existing WTO rules on agriculture.

6. We wish also to reiterate that the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on SSM has strengthened the mandate in the "July Framework" and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration and reaffirms that developing Members shall have recourse to both a price-based and volume-based SSM. Members shall be engaged constructively and focus the discussion on outstanding issues and refrain from making any linkage with other issues, with a view to find a pro-development and balanced SSM, which is accessible and effective in addressing the impact of import surges and price depressions caused by short-term and cyclical volatilities.
7. The Nairobi Ministerial Decision on PSH further reinforces the preceding mandates given to Members to further negotiate the PSH issue as stipulated in Bali Ministerial Decision taken on 7 December 2013 and General Council Decision taken on 27 November 2014, and to arrive at a permanent solution at MC11. A permanent solution on PSH without any additional payment is therefore a must have at MC11. We underline that any permanent solution should cover the current and future programs of developing country Members.
8. The G-33 is making every effort through constructive engagement with other Members in order to arrive at meaningful, development-centered and credible outcomes on the SSM and PSH at MC11.
9. While respecting each Member's rights and positions in the negotiation on both issues, we express our deep concerns that convergence has not been achieved on these two areas. Members failed to make meaningful progress for convergence, despite all the constructive engagement and flexibilities that have been demonstrated by the G-33 Members. We, thus, strongly urge Members to find ways to address the impasse, and to show flexibility and political will in the negotiations, based on the Doha Ministerial Declaration and subsequent Declarations and Decisions thereafter. All the WTO Members must be cognizant of the negative impact on the WTO's credibility, if Members fail to deliver concrete outcomes on PSH and SSM in Buenos Aires.

### **Post Buenos Aires and the G-33**

10. We are of the view that WTO Members shall continue seeking a comprehensive conclusion of the DDA after Buenos Aires. We underline that the special and differential treatment for developing country Members including LDCs, SVEs and NFIDCs in the agriculture negotiations must be operationally effective to enable them to effectively take account of their development needs. We, urge other WTO Members to continue delivering the DDA in the area of agriculture based on the Draft Agriculture Modalities of December 2008.
11. In the broader Doha agricultural reform, we call Members to resume negotiation on the domestic support and market access pillars and continue to seek a level playing field in global agricultural trade. We underscore the need to secure Special Products (SP) for developing country Members whenever discussions on tariff reduction on agriculture products resume in the market access pillar.
12. The G-33 shall remain a resilient and a dynamic group, representing the interests of subsistence farmers in the developing world. We reaffirm the important role of the Group in ensuring that the global agricultural reform is attuned to the needs of all developing country Members and in establishing a strong, fair, and rules-based multilateral trading framework through meaningful and effective special and differential treatment. We will cooperate with other Members on other areas in the WTO agriculture negotiations where there are common interests and shared objectives.
13. Finally, we renew our commitment to engage actively and constructively in the negotiations, guided by the Doha mandate and centrality of development.

Buenos Aires, 9 December 2017

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