

G10¹ Ministerial Communiqué
Paris, 16 May 2007

1. Ministers of the G10, a group of major importers of agricultural products, met today in Paris. They welcomed the full-fledged resumption of the multilateral process in Geneva and restated G10's firm commitment to establish modalities for agriculture to allow for a successful conclusion of the DDA by the end of 2007.
2. They welcomed the paper presented by the Chairman of the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture, Ambassador Crawford Falconer, as a useful contribution to the re-vitalisation of the multilateral process. However, Ministers underlined that there are indications of "landing zones" in the Market Access pillar which they cannot subscribe to; they confirmed their willingness to work constructively with all other WTO Members to reach a balanced outcome acceptable to all participants.
3. Ministers of the G10 renewed their readiness to show flexibility and to undertake substantial commitments in all three pillars of the agriculture negotiations. They underline that their core concerns need to be adequately addressed in the modalities. These are:
 - no tariff capping.
 - different tariff structures must be taken into account.,
 - flexibilities for tariff reductions in the upper band.
 - reasonable treatment and an appropriate number of sensitive products.
4. Recalling the various contributions they have already provided to the negotiations, G10 Ministers stress the following points:

Overall balance

- i. Importance of ensuring that the mandates of the Framework and of the Hong Kong Declaration are followed in order to reach broad acceptance.
- ii. Overall balance between the agricultural negotiations and other issues of DDA, in particular NAMA, services and rules.

¹ Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Norway, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei.

- iii. The recipe for success lies in the balanced treatment of all three pillars under negotiation: market access, domestic support and strict parallelism in export competition.

Tiered formula

- iv. Even the lowest level of the tariff cuts contemplated in the Chairman's paper goes beyond what the G10 can accept unless their concerns are adequately taken care of. Overall balance of ambition is necessary for the G10 to go beyond its original proposal for tariff reductions.

Sensitive Products

- v. *Treatment:* They share the view of the Chair that a common structure should be established first. The TRQ commitment should be based primarily on deviation from the formula (determined under the principle of "less than full compensation") and properly adjusted in accordance with the degree of import penetration.
- vi. *Number:* They cannot accept the Chair's view that 1% to 5% is the centre of gravity for the number of sensitive products. Also, no extra payments shall be required when accommodating the concerns of disproportionately affected Members.

5. The G10 Ministers reaffirmed that developmental aspects should be a main priority in the DDA, and reconfirmed their support for the legitimate needs of developing countries including appropriate S&D provisions.
6. The G10 Ministers instructed their senior officials to increase their efforts to contribute to the multilateral process in order to come up with reasonable solutions which address different situations of Members.
7. Proportionate burden sharing is key to a broadly acceptable outcome. This involves a political understanding on maximum concession levels by all Members.
8. Ministers reaffirmed their willingness to deepen dialogues, at both ministerial and senior official levels, with all other Members and negotiating groups.

9. Finally, Ministers underscored the necessity to ensure the inclusiveness and transparency of the negotiations. Ownership of both the process and substance of ongoing negotiations is a prerequisite to the successful conclusion of the DDA.