

**ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE SEPTEMBER 1998
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

Communication from Egypt

The following communication received from the delegation of Egypt is circulated for information of Members.

1. Implementation Issues

- (a) Difficulties facing developing countries in implementing various agreements (e.g. both notification and substantive obligations).
- (b) Imbalances in some agreements. Implementation should be in letter and spirit. The negative impact on developing countries (e.g. abuse of rules on antidumping – use of standards in the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) – the manner in which the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing is implemented).
- (c) Lack of implementation by developed countries of a number of obligations (the implementation of the decision on Net Food-Importing Developing Countries – technical and financial assistance in the TRIPs Agreement, etc.).
- (d) Identifying ways and means to ensure the implementation of special and differential provisions in favour of developing countries in various WTO Agreements.
- (e) Market access problems facing products of export interest to developing countries.
- (f) Analysis of the distribution of the benefits of the Multilateral Trading System (MTS). Ways and means to ensure the equitable distribution of these benefits.
- (g) Evaluation of the adequacy of technical assistance to developing countries not only in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements but also to maximize trading opportunities from the URAs with a view to ensuring that they be integrated in the MTS and contribute effectively in its evolution.
- (h) Evaluation of the extent to which implementation issues can be addressed within the built-in-agenda, and how to deal with the difficulties that cannot be addressed in this context.
- (i) Effective follow-up of the outcome of the High Level Meeting for LDCs and the integration of LDCs in the MTS.

2. Issues that emerged from the two Ministerial Conferences

To ensure that the development perspective is dealt with in an adequate manner in the working groups on investment, competition, government procurement and in dealing with the issue of trade facilitation and electronic commerce.

3. Accession issues

To address the difficulties facing developing countries in the process of accession to the WTO in order for us to ensure the universality of the MTS, and to address the financial and other requirements, including the needs of the WTO Secretariat, that could contribute in achieving an expeditious termination of accession negotiations.
