

**PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WTO**

Communication from Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador,
Honduras and Nicaragua

The following communication, dated 23 November 1998, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Honduras.

In the framework of the second informal meeting of the General Council for the preparation of the Third Ministerial Conference, and specifically in connection with the discussion of paragraph 9(a)(ii) of the Ministerial Declaration of May 1998, the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua would like to submit the following lists of items for inclusion in the negotiations on agriculture and services.

**INITIAL LIST OF ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FORTHCOMING
NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE**

1. Market access

Considerably improve market access for the main export products of the developing countries through real reduction of tariff peaks, progressive increase in the volume of tariff quotas, tariff reduction within the tariff quotas, transparency in the administration of tariff quotas and effective elimination of non-tariff barriers.

2. Domestic support

Provide the developing countries with flexibility and facilities to assist them in using domestic support in the agricultural sector provided such support is aimed at improving marketing, transport and diversification of agricultural production or ensuring compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.

3. Special attention to the net food-importing countries

Improved market access for products from the net food-importing countries so that they can increase their export earnings and hence be in a position to face the increases in the food-import bill.

Financial and technical assistance commitments by the developed countries so that the developing countries can diversify and increase their productivity in the agricultural sector and hence be able to face the increases in the food-import bill.

4. Non-trade concerns of the developing countries, particularly those with small and vulnerable economies

Develop a package of measures aimed at improving the national food security situation, maintaining the standard of living of the rural population and preserving the environment, and exempt such measures from the reduction commitment. It goes without saying that these domestic support measures will bear no relation to export subsidies.

Allow countries that are victims of natural disasters flexibility in complying with agricultural provisions and permit the temporary application of domestic support measures with a view to reviving domestic production.

**INITIAL LIST OF ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON SERVICES**

Improve market access for sectors and modes of supply that are of interest to the developing countries, particularly as concerns the movement of natural persons.
