

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Agriculture  
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## SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 22-23 MARCH 2001

### Statements by Mauritius

#### **G/AG/NG/W/130 (Proposal by Nigeria)**

We would like to welcome the proposal by Nigeria. The proposal highlights the main features of Nigerian agriculture and proposes a course of action which would address the concerns of the agriculture of this country.

At this stage we would only tender preliminary comments on certain aspects of the paper.

The point made on SPS is common to most developing countries and we would like to support it and once more reiterate the point made in G/AG/NG/W/96 to the effect that negotiations in agriculture would be incomplete if they are not accompanied by flexibility in the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures as well as improvements in respect of geographical indications.

We have taken good note of the proposals on S&D and food security. They relate to many issues which are close to our concerns and we would have to explore them in great detail in phase two.

Regarding the points at paragraphs 5 and 6, we intend taking them up in future work on STEs.

#### **G/AG/NG/W/135 (Proposal by the Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

We would like to thank the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its negotiating proposal.

We have taken note of the various points made in respect of key areas of the negotiations in agriculture and in particular of the proposals formulated under the heading Special and Differential Treatment.

We therefore look forward to pursuing work on the proposals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### **G/AG/NG/W/136 (Proposal by Kenya)**

We would like to welcome the proposal by Kenya.

At this stage we would only make preliminary comments on the proposals put forward:

- (i) We take note that Kenya supports the view of the SIDS that existing preferences given by developed countries to developing countries should not be undermined.

- (ii) We support Kenya in respect of the minimization of the adjustment costs resulting from the erosion of the values of preferential market access. In this regard, we reiterate the view expressed in G/AG/NG/W/96 to the effect that there should be self restraint by large exporters, both from the developed and developing world, for products originating from the SIDS and vital for the economics of the SIDS.
- (iii) Food security and harmonious rural development are vital for most countries. In the developed world, Annex 2 measures are more or less adequate; however, in the developing world, budgetary resources limit, or even preclude, recourse to Annex 2 measures. In such circumstances, border measures and/ preferences, more particularly, tariffs represent an important instrument to fulfil vital developmental socio-economic objectives.
- (iv) Regarding the Peace Clause, we consider that it is the sine qua non condition for the pursuit of the reform process. However, we submit that there is need to expand the scope of commitments protected by the due restraint clause to ensure that all countries are equitably treated. The concern for equity warrants, in our view, an expanded Peace Clause, covering, inter alia, those measures fulfilling the socio-economic objectives of the SIDS, the LDCs and the NFIDCs.
- (v) As an NFIDC deeply frustrated by the absence of decision in favour of LDCs and NFIDCs, we cannot but lend our full support to the proposal of Kenya in respect of NFIDCs.

#### **G/AG/NG/W/137 (Preliminary positions of Senegal)**

We would like to welcome the paper expressing the preliminary positions of Senegal and would on our part make preliminary comments:

- (i) Senegal is yet but another country which demonstrates to us the multiplicity of agricultural systems worldwide.
- (ii) Senegal brings to the fore the concept of regional complementarities which should be taken into account in our future work.
- (iii) Senegal has appropriately described the need for preferential trade agreements. Moreover, it has also demonstrated the need for DCs to safeguard their domestic production system which underpins the socio-economic fabric of many DCs.
- (iv) Mauritius fully supports the view of Senegal in respect of the necessity to establish a mechanism to prevent the adverse impact of the reduction of subsidies on the availability of basic foodstuffs necessary for the food security of LDCs and NFIDCs. In this context, Mauritius welcomes the cautious and pragmatic approach on export competition.
- (v) Mauritius also welcomes the proposals on S&D.

#### **G/AG/NG/W/139 (Export Credits for Agricultural Products: Proposal by Mercosur, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, India and Malaysia)**

We would like to welcome this proposal. At this stage, we will only tender preliminary comments and indicate our intent to pursue discussions on this important issue. As indicated earlier our approach on the issues would be a cautious and pragmatic one.

We fully support the view expressed that the disciplines on export credits should be agreed upon in the framework of the WTO.

We would before proceeding further in our analysis seek some clarification on what is meant by the term "officially supported export credit".

#### **G/AG/NG/W/140 (Proposal by Jordan)**

We welcome the paper from Jordan which is a comprehensive one and explains the numerous constraints faced by Jordan.

We welcome more particularly the points at paragraph 2.4 as they are very close to the concerns of the SIDS. For instance, in our countries, small farmers represent an important segment of agricultural production.

Paragraph 2.5 proves the point that we have been making, namely that agriculture is undertaken in high and low potential areas. This clearly calls upon us to have an approach which satisfies the concerns of all countries as opposed to the "one size fits all" one.

However, we would like to indicate that we cannot agree with the reduction of tariffs from the applied tariff level.

#### **G/AG/NG/W/141 (Submission by Croatia)**

We welcome the proposal by Croatia and fully support its stance on non-trade concerns, the special safeguard clause and the need to discipline all forms of export competition by WTO rules.

As a Small Island Developing State facing numerous constraints and seeking due recognition of our difficulties we fully understand the view put forward by Croatia that it should be afforded flexibility.

#### **G/AG/NG/W/142 (WTO African Group: Joint Proposal on the negotiations on agriculture)**

Mauritius as a co-sponsor of this paper fully supports this paper and commends it to the Special Session. In our statement, we shall draw attention to key features of the paper.

The paper highlights the diversity and complexity of agriculture in Africa which includes DCs, LDCs, SIDS, land locked countries and NFIDCs.

The paper demonstrates not only the need of preferences for Africa but also underscores the necessity to reinforce these preferences.

The joint proposal also highlights the fact that preferences are essential for the implementation of the measures described in Annex 2.

The paper draws attention to the fact that the concerns of the LDCs and the NFIDCs, most of them found in Africa, has to be promptly and adequately addressed.

Finally, the proposal suggests a pragmatic approach which should enable us to proceed with our work in the Special Session.

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