

**General Council**  
**30 November 2011**

Original: English

**THE WTO RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF THE FOOD CRISIS  
ON LDCs AND NFIDCS**

Communication from the NFIDCs, African and Arab Groups

Revision

The following communication, dated 25 November 2011, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Egypt.

The mission of Egypt on behalf of the NFIDCs, African and Arab Groups requests the inclusion of an agenda item entitled "The WTO Response to the Impact of the Food Crisis on LDCs and NFIDCS", on the agenda of the next WTO General Council Meeting which will be held on 30 November 2011. The following language is proposed to be included in the MC8 final outcome under actions by ministers.

**WTO Work Programme to Mitigate the Impact of the Food Market Prices and Volatility on  
WTO Least-Developed and Net-Food Importing Developing Members**

We recognize that the first responsibility of each WTO Member is to ensure food security of its own population. We emphasize that the multilateral trading system should contribute to achieving greater coherence for economic policy-making on food security. We direct the General Council to develop a comprehensive, fact-based, result-oriented and time-bound work program on the trade-related response to mitigate the impact of the food market prices and volatility on WTO LDCs and NFIDCs. The elements of the work program will be agreed by Members and could include, *inter alia*, (i) explore the possibility of developing rules to exempt purchases of LDCs and NFIDCs, authorized by their governments under conditions to be defined, from quantitative export restrictions invoked under Article XI.2(a) of the GATT 1994 by other WTO Members, which are major exporters of the specific foodstuffs concerned; (ii) explore, in coordination with competent institutions, the mechanisms required to provide financing, including on concessional terms, to address the short-term difficulties the LDCs and NFIDCs face in financing their food imports. The work program will also address the challenges encountered by other vulnerable developing countries like NFIDCs and facing critical situation of food insecurity. The General Council will establish the work program, via the Committee of Agriculture, and report on its progress, including recommendations for actions, by the WTO 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.