

24 February 2022

(22-1796)

Page: 1/27

Committee on Agriculture**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION ON MEASURES CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE
NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAMME ON LEAST-DEVELOPED
AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹*Revision*

The present note updates the information in the Secretariat note G/AG/W/42/Rev.21 dated 12 November 2020 on the implementation of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDC Decision). Following a brief introduction on the follow-up process to the NFIDC Decision as a whole (Part 1), this paper sets out the substantive provisions of the Decision and provides information regarding their implementation (Part 2).

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 MONITORING OF THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE NFIDC DECISION	3
2 PROVISIONS OF THE NFIDC DECISION AND IMPLEMENTATION	4
2.1 Food aid	5
2.1.1 Review of Food Aid Levels and initiation of Food Aid Negotiations	5
2.1.1.1 Review of food aid levels.....	5
2.1.1.2 Initiation of food aid negotiations.....	7
2.1.2 Concessionality of Food Aid.....	8
2.2 Technical and financial assistance.....	8
2.3 Differential treatment in the framework of an agreement on export credits.....	9
2.4 Access to the resources of the international financial institutions	10
2.4.1 Ability to finance commercial imports	10
2.4.1.1 International food price developments and food import bills of LDCs and NFIDCs.....	10
2.4.2 Access to the facilities of the IMF and the World Bank	17
Annex 1: List of notifications under Article 16.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture (Table NF:1) for the reporting years 1995-2020	19
Annex 2: Summary of Table of NF:1 Notifications	21

1 MONITORING OF THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE NFIDC DECISION

1.1. In 1995, the Committee on Agriculture established notification requirements under which donor Members are required to submit data on food aid donations (quantity and concessionality) as well as information on technical and financial assistance and other relevant information on actions taken within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDC Decision).²

1.2. The annual monitoring of the follow-up to the NFIDC Decision in accordance with Article 16 of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and under paragraph 18 of the Working Procedures of the Committee is an important element in the work of the Committee.³ It is undertaken on the basis, *inter alia*, of Table NF:1 notifications.

1.3. Table NF:1 notifications are required by all donor Members in respect of actions taken within the framework of the NFIDC Decision. Annex 1 summarizes the record of Members' Table NF:1 notifications for the implementation years 1995 to 2020.⁴ The list of notifying Members include signatories of the Food Aid Convention⁵ as well as other Members that have identified themselves as food aid donors in their Table NF:1 notifications.

1.4. Pursuant to the discussions during the annual NFIDC monitoring exercise in November 2018, Annex 2 includes a summary of the information reported in donor Members' latest NF:1 notifications.⁶

1.5. In 1996, the Committee established a WTO list of net food-importing developing countries.⁷ The list is regularly reviewed during the March meetings of the Committee. The latest change to the list was agreed at the September 2020 meeting of the Committee to include Samoa among the beneficiary developing countries within the framework of the NFIDC Decision⁸. The list currently contains 32 developing country Members (NFIDCs) in addition to least-developed countries (LDCs) as recognized by the United Nations.⁹

1.6. In December 2000, the Committee was instructed by the General Council¹⁰ to examine possible means of improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the NFIDC Decision.¹¹ The Committee's report¹² on this question was approved by the Doha Ministerial Conference in 2001, and included, *inter alia*, a recommendation for the establishment of an Inter-agency panel of financial and commodity experts to examine the issue of short-term difficulties by NFIDCs and LDCs in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs. The panel report, which was

² See G/AG/2, pages 33-34.

³ According to the Working Procedures, the annual monitoring exercise is to be undertaken at the November meetings of the Committee. In view of the 12th Ministerial Conference originally slated for the week of 29 November 2021, the usual November meeting of the Committee did not take place that year and the 2021 annual monitoring exercise was agreed to be undertaken at the March 2022 meeting (paragraph 5.29 of G/AG/R/99 refers).

⁴ The list does not include "nil returns" where Members have submitted Table NF:1 notifications stating that no food aid or technical/financial assistance was provided or that the Table NF:1 notification requirement was not applicable.

⁵ A series of multilateral cooperation instruments in the form of the Food Aid Convention remained in force from 1967 to 2012. The latest in the series is the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) which entered into force on 1 January 2013.

⁶ See Paragraph 2.7 of G/AG/R/90.

⁷ See G/AG/3 and G/AG/5. The decision to establish this list was taken on the understanding that "*being listed would not as such confer automatic benefits since, under the mechanisms covered by the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision, donors and the institutions concerned would have a role to play*" (G/AG/R/4, paragraph 17).

⁸ The 2020 review of the NFIDC list, originally scheduled for the March 2020 meeting, was undertaken at the September meeting of the Committee due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁹ See G/AG/5/Rev.11.

¹⁰ See WT/L/384.

¹¹ See progress reports to the General Council on such consultations in G/AG/7 and G/AG/10.

¹² See G/AG/11.

submitted in June 2002, included an examination of specific proposals submitted by a group of seventeen WTO NFIDCs.¹³

1.7. Between 2003 and 2006, the Committee on Agriculture also considered at its regular meetings, a proposal by the African Group calling for developed-country Members to, *inter alia*, contribute to a revolving fund for normal levels of food imports.¹⁴ In September 2004, the Committee decided to revert to this matter on the basis of the recommendation contained in its report to the General Council on Implementation-Related Issues.¹⁵ Informal consultations specifically dedicated to that proposal were also held in May 2005 and in February 2006, as part of the discussions on implementation-related issues. The outcome of the consultations is reflected in the Committee's follow-up report to the General Council.¹⁶

2 PROVISIONS OF THE NFIDC DECISION AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. The NFIDC Decision states:

"Ministers recognize that the progressive implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round as a whole will generate increasing opportunities for trade expansion and economic growth to the benefit of all participants." (Paragraph 1 of the NFIDC Decision)

"Ministers recognize that during the reform programme leading to greater liberalization of trade in agriculture least-developed and net food-importing developing countries may experience negative effects in terms of the availability of adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs from external sources on reasonable terms and conditions, including short-term difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs." (Paragraph 2 of the NFIDC Decision)

2.2. The other four paragraphs of the NFIDC Decision contain a number of specific agreements in the areas of food aid, technical and financial assistance, differential treatment within the framework of any agreement on agricultural export credits, and a provision regarding access to the resources of the international financial institutions. In the following sections, these provisions are individually examined with regards to their implementation, based on the information available to the Secretariat.

2.3. Developing country Members eligible as beneficiaries within the framework of the NFIDC Decision have regularly emphasized the need of an effective implementation of the Decision. During the 2014 NFIDC annual monitoring discussions¹⁷, the African Group urged Members to improve the implementation of the NFIDC Decision to effectively achieve its intended objectives.¹⁸ On that occasion some Members also emphasized the importance of establishing strong disciplines in the area of export competition in general and international food aid in particular. The need to improve the implementation of the NFIDC Decision was highlighted again by the NFIDC Group during the 2016 and 2018 annual monitoring; the Group also presented some specific suggestions to reinvigorate the annual monitoring exercise.¹⁹ During the 2019 annual monitoring exercise, the NFIDC Group called for further measures to enable LDCs and NFIDCs to address rising food security challenges, despite the increase of food imports by LDCs and NFIDCs in the period between 2008 and 2017.²⁰

2.4. At the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10) in Nairobi, Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the NFIDC Decision.²¹ WTO Ministers at MC-10 simultaneously

¹³ See proposals (G/AG/W/49 and G/AG/W/49/Add.1 and G/AG/W/49/Corr.1) and Inter-agency panel report (WT/GC/62, G/AG/13).

¹⁴ Paragraph 52 of TN/CTD/W/3/Rev.2 refers.

¹⁵ See G/AG/16, paragraph 19(c). Progress reports relating to the African Group proposal are contained in G/AG/17 and G/AG/17/Corr.1; G/AG/20; and G/AG/22.

¹⁶ See paragraphs 11-12 of G/AG/16/Add.1 dated 13 June 2006.

¹⁷ Section 2.1 of G/AG/R/76 refers.

¹⁸ Specific suggestions made by the Africa Group towards an improved implementation of the NFIDC Decision are included in paragraph 2.3 of G/AG/R/76.

¹⁹ Paragraphs 2.2 to 2.7 of G/AG/R/83 and paragraph 2.8 of G/AG/R/90 refer.

²⁰ Paragraph 2.6 of G/AG/R/93 refers.

²¹ Paragraph 25 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(15)/DEC) refers.

adopted the Decision²² on export competition which states that nothing in this Decision can be construed to diminish in any way the existing commitments contained in the NFIDC Decision nor shall the monitoring and review of the latter be affected.²³

2.1 Food aid

2.5. In light of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the NFIDC Decision quoted above,

"Ministers accordingly agree to establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round on trade in agriculture does not adversely affect the availability of food aid at a level which is sufficient to continue to provide assistance in meeting the food needs of developing countries, especially least-developed and net food-importing developing countries." (chapeau to paragraph 3 of the NFIDC Decision)

2.6. The MC10 Decision on export competition also includes disciplines on international food aid. In the context of the thrust of the NFIDC Decision being the availability and adequacy of food aid, the Decision on export competition in relation to international food aid disciplines says:

*"Members reaffirm their commitment to maintain an adequate level of international food aid, to take account of the interests of food aid recipients and to ensure that the disciplines contained hereafter do not unintentionally impede the delivery of food aid provided to deal with emergency situations."*²⁴

2.7. Members, as a part of the MC10 Decision on export competition, also agreed to review the provisions on international food aid contained therein within the regular Committee on Agriculture monitoring of the NFIDC Decision.²⁵

2.1.1 Review of Food Aid Levels and initiation of Food Aid Negotiations

2.8. In order to work towards the objective enunciated in the chapeau of paragraph 3 of the NFIDC Decision, Ministers agreed:

"(i) to review the level of food aid established periodically by the Committee on Food Aid under the Food Aid Convention 1986 and to initiate negotiations in the appropriate forum to establish a level of food aid commitments sufficient to meet the legitimate needs of developing countries during the reform programme [...]" (paragraph 3(i) of the NFIDC Decision)

2.1.1.1 Review of food aid levels

2.9. The Food Aid Conventions remained in operation from 1967 to 2012 in a long series of multilateral co-operation instruments. The commitments of donor countries under the Food Aid Conventions were specified in terms of minimum annual contributions and provided a safety net in terms of international food aid availability. Under the Food Aid Convention 1999, the latest in a series of such Conventions, the combined minimum annual volume and value commitments of donor Members stood at 4.8 million tonnes (in wheat equivalent) and EUR 130 million.

2.10. The Food Aid Convention 1999 expired on 30 June 2012. On 1 January 2013, a new Food Assistance Convention (FAC) came into effect. The FAC expanded the traditional focus of previous Food Aid Conventions and included all forms of food assistance (in-kind donation of eligible products, cash transfers, cash-based or commodity-based vouchers, as well as nutritional interventions) towards meeting the needs of the most food insecure and vulnerable populations. Each donor country, party to the FAC, assumes annual commitment of food assistance (i.e. the "minimum annual commitment") in terms of value or quantity or a combination of both to be notified to the

²² Ministerial Decision on Export Competition in document WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers.

²³ Paragraph 3 of WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers.

²⁴ Paragraph 22 of WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers. Similar commitment "to maintain needed levels" of international food aid may also be found in paragraph 30 of the MC-10 Decision.

²⁵ Paragraph 32 of WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers.

FAC Secretariat.²⁶ Under the FAC, the current annual commitments of the donor parties are set in monetary terms. The 2022 annual commitments levels of the parties who have ratified, accepted or approved the FAC are as set out below:

Donor	Commitments in 2022
Australia	AUD 80 million
Austria	EUR 1.495 million
Canada	CAD 250 million
Denmark	DKK 203 million
European Union	EUR 350 million
Finland	EUR 6 million
France	EUR 112 million
Japan	JPY 10 billion
Korea, Republic of	KRW 46 billion
Luxembourg	EUR 4 million
Russian Federation	USD 15 million
Slovenia	EUR 30,000
Spain	EUR 10 million
Sweden	SEK 200 million
Switzerland	CHF 34 million
United States of America	USD 2.5 billion

Source: <http://www.foodassistanceconvention.org/commitments.aspx>.

2.11. The food aid shipments by donors under the Food Aid Convention often exceeded their combined minimum annual commitments. Similarly under the Food Assistance Convention (FAC), the donors have consistently fulfilled their annual FAC commitments.²⁷ In 2020, all FAC members fulfilled or substantially exceeded their commitments by collectively contributing to more than USD 6 billion.²⁸

2.12. There are a number of other sources of food aid data, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Data from these sources are not directly comparable with data reported by donors under the Food Aid Conventions mainly due to differences in country and product coverage, reporting period, and the use of delivery rather than shipment data. Data on global food aid deliveries until the year 2014 based on the WFP International Food Aid Information System (INTERFAIS) are included in the previous revisions of this note. The WFP has since discontinued the INTERFAIS and the collection of global food aid flow data. Since the discontinuation of INTERFAIS, the FAO has been developing a food aid data collection system to monitor and report on global food aid transactions. During the 2018 annual monitoring exercise, the FAO reported on the status of their efforts towards the development of a monitoring system to collect data on international food aid.²⁹

2.13. Food aid data is currently being collected through a variety of channels. Under the review process of the Committee on Agriculture including the follow-up to the NFIDC Decision and the agreed notification requirements³⁰, quantitative food aid data is reported in donor Members' Table ES:3 notifications (and in some cases in Table ES:1 in respect of products in the export subsidy

²⁶ The parties may modify their minimum annual commitments subject to notification to the FAC Secretariat.

²⁷ The contribution by the International Grains Council (IGC) on behalf of the Food Assistance Committee during the 2020 Annual monitoring exercise refers (G/AG/GEN/173).

²⁸ 2020 Narrative Report on food assistance by FAC donors is available at: <https://www.foodassistanceconvention.org/en/reports.aspx>.

²⁹ Paragraph 2.13 of G/AG/R/90 refers.

³⁰ G/AG/2 and G/AG/2/Add.1.

schedules of the relevant Members). At the same time, Table NF:1 notifications include volumetric or monetary data on the provision of food aid in favour of the beneficiary net food-importing developing countries (NFIDCs) and least developed countries (LDCs).³¹ Annex 2 to this background note includes a summary of the information on food aid notified by donor Members in their annual NF notifications.

2.14. In the context of the annual dedicated discussions on export competition in the Committee on Agriculture, the Secretariat prepares background documents³², including on international food aid, drawing information from Members' relevant export subsidy (ES) notifications as well as Members' replies to the annual export competition questionnaire (ECQ)³³.

2.15. The Secretariat also liaises with relevant international organizations to enhance transparency of global food aid deliveries. The WTO Secretariat organized an Information Session for WTO Members on international food aid on 24 June 2019. During the session, the WTO Secretariat and participants from other relevant international organizations³⁴ provided an overview of the current landscape of disciplines as well as the monitoring and data collection practices with regard to international food aid and food assistance. The Session also focused on the issue of enhanced transparency of donors' food assistance policies and strengthened collaboration among the relevant international organizations.

2.1.1.2 Initiation of food aid negotiations

2.16. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, Ministers approved the following recommendation of the Committee regarding the renegotiation of the Food Aid Convention, 1999³⁵ :

"[...] that early action be taken within the framework of the Food Aid Convention 1999 (which unless extended, with or without a decision regarding its renegotiation, would expire on 30 June 2002) and of the UN World Food Programme by donors of food aid to review their food aid contributions with a view to better identifying and meeting the food aid needs of least-developed and WTO net food-importing developing countries". (G/AG/11, Part B paragraph 3 I(a) refers)

2.17. The Food Aid Convention 1999 was to expire on 30 June 2002. Initially, the Food Aid Committee agreed to extend it year after year. In June 2004, it decided to undertake its renegotiation with the aim of bringing into effect a *"more effective instrument to provide food to those identified needs when food aid is the most appropriate response"*. Furthermore, in view of the relationship between the review process in the Food Aid Committee and negotiations underway in the WTO, the Food Aid Committee decided that conclusive recommendations should await the outcome of the WTO negotiations. In these circumstances, the Food Aid Convention 1999 continued to be extended on an annual basis while informal deliberations were pursued between its members on its renegotiation. At its 103rd Session in December 2010, the Food Aid Committee launched the formal process of renegotiating the Food Aid Convention 1999. The new Food Assistance Convention (FAC)³⁶ was adopted on 25 April 2012. It was opened for signature on 11 June 2012 and entered into force on 1 January 2013.

2.18. The FAC expands the scope of FAC donors' food assistance commitments beyond food and seeds. Some of the principles of the FAC include a focus on food assistance effectiveness and accountability, involvement of beneficiaries in the needs assessment, and an enlarged list of "eligible products" and "eligible activities" (including the provision of cash and vouchers and nutritional interventions). It addresses both short-term emergency assistance as well as long-term rehabilitation and development objectives. Article 3 of the FAC sets out the relationship between its

³¹ Members' notifications may be consulted on the Agriculture Information Management System (AG-IMS) at: <http://aqims.wto.org/Pages/Default.aspx>.

³² Refer to documents in the G/AG/W/125/ series.

³³ Annex of WT/MIN(15)/45-WT/L/980 refers.

³⁴ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food Assistance Convention (FAC), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

³⁵ The follow-up by WTO Members on the renegotiation of the Food Aid Convention 1995 are described in the previous revisions of this note.

³⁶ Accessible at <http://www.foodassistanceconvention.org/convention/FoodAssistance.pdf>. Submissions by the IGC made at the annual monitoring exercises also includes details about the thrust and activities of the FAC. The latest such submission is contained in G/AG/GEN/155.

provisions and the existing or future WTO rules, particularly on international food aid. The Decision on export competition adopted at MC-10 includes specific disciplines on international food aid.³⁷ Some of these food aid disciplines in the MC-10 Decision also make a reference to the FAC.³⁸

2.1.2 Concessionalality of Food Aid

2.19. To the end stated in the chapeau of paragraph 3 of the NFIDC Decision, Ministers agreed:

"(ii) to adopt guidelines to ensure that an increasing proportion of basic foodstuffs is provided to least-developed and net food-importing developing countries in fully grant form and/or on appropriate concessional terms in line with Article IV of the Food Aid Convention 1986 [...]" (paragraph 3(ii) of the NFIDC Decision)

2.20. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, Ministers approved the recommendation that:

"WTO Members which are donors of food aid shall, within the framework of their food aid policies, statutes, programmes and commitments, take appropriate measures aimed at ensuring: [...] (ii) that all food aid to least developed countries is provided in fully grant form and, to the maximum extent possible, to WTO net food-importing developing countries as well". (G/AG/11, Part B paragraph 3 I(b) refers)

2.21. Under the Food Assistance Convention (FAC), no less than 80% of a party's committed food assistance to eligible countries and vulnerable populations³⁹ shall be in fully grant form, where the donors are expected to exceed this percentage share progressively.

2.22. The issue of food aid to be in fully grant form came up frequently in the NFIDC annual monitoring discussions.⁴⁰ In the agriculture negotiations under the export competition pillar on the theme of international food aid, Members specifically considered the question of providing food aid exclusively in fully grant form. The Decision on export competition adopted at MC-10 requires Members to ensure that all international food aid is in fully-grant form.⁴¹

2.23. Members' Table NF:1 notifications specifically include information on whether the food aid was provided "in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms". Annex 2 includes a summary of such information reported by donor Members in their latest Table NF:1 notifications. Most donor Members in their NF notifications have reported the provision of food aid to the recipient countries in fully grant form. In the recent NF notifications, the United States has indicated that:

"Food assistance under Title II, Food for Progress, and Food for Education programs is provided in fully grant form." (G/AG/N/USA/160 refers)

2.2 Technical and financial assistance

2.24. To the end stated in the chapeau of paragraph 3 of the NFIDC Decision Ministers agreed:

"(iii) to give full consideration in the context of their aid programmes to requests for the provision of technical and financial assistance to least-developed and net food-importing developing countries to improve their agricultural productivity and infrastructure." (paragraph 3(iii) of the NFIDC Decision)

2.25. The Doha Ministerial Conference called on developed country Members to continue to give full consideration, in the context of their aid programmes, to requests for the provision of technical and financial assistance by least-developed and net food-importing developing countries that could facilitate improvement in their agricultural productivity and infrastructure. This recommendation reflects the fact that technical and financial assistance is essentially a bilateral matter between donors and recipients based on requests made by recipient countries. Technical and financial

³⁷ "International Food aid" section on pages 6-7 of document WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers.

³⁸ Refer specifically to paragraphs 28 and 30 of document WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980.

³⁹ "Eligible country" and "eligible vulnerable populations" are defined in Article 4 of the FAC.

⁴⁰ Refer, for example, to paragraph 2.5 of G/AG/R/76.

⁴¹ Subparagraph 23.b of document WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers.

assistance by Members under paragraph 3(iii) of the NFIDC Decision is reported in their Table NF:1 notifications. Column 5 of Annex 2 includes a summary of technical and financial assistance notified by donor Members in their latest Table NF:1 notifications.

2.26. Furthermore, the Doha Ministerial Conference approved the recommendation:

" [...] that, in support of the priority accorded by least-developed and net food-importing developing countries to the development of their agricultural productivity and infrastructure, the WTO General Council call upon relevant international development organizations, including the World Bank, the FAO, IFAD, the UNDP and the Regional Development Banks to enhance their provision of, and access to, technical and financial assistance to least-developed and net food-importing developing countries, on terms and conditions conducive to the better use of such facilities and resources, in order to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure in these countries under existing facilities and programmes, as well as under such facilities and programmes as may be introduced."⁴²

2.27. The initial responses from the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, FAO and the World Bank were circulated in 2002.⁴³ Since then, a number of IGOs have regularly updated the Committee on Agriculture on their respective initiatives and action plans in this area.⁴⁴

2.28. During the 2019 annual monitoring exercise, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) reported on its technical cooperation activities to support Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in the area of food and nutrition security. The IICA reported that it works with its member States to develop policies and strategies to strengthen institutional frameworks in the areas of international trade and regional integration, family farming, food safety and quality, bio-economy and climate resilience.⁴⁵

2.29. The 2020 annual exercise was conducted in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic when the FAO reported on its COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme covering seven priority areas, including targeted actions towards 'boosting smallholder resilience for recovery' in least-developed and other vulnerable countries.⁴⁶

2.3 Differential treatment in the framework of an agreement on export credits

2.30. In light of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the NFIDC Decision quoted above, Ministers agreed:

"[...] to ensure that any agreement relating to agricultural export credits makes appropriate provision for differential treatment in favour of least-developed and net food-importing developing countries". (paragraph 4 of the NFIDC Decision)

2.31. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, Ministers reaffirmed the commitment above and approved a general understanding regarding procedures for the development of disciplines pursuant to Article 10.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture and the related provisions of the NFIDC Decision (G/AG/11, Part A paragraph 4). Accordingly, work within the WTO on the question of agricultural export credits was undertaken in the framework of both the regular meetings of the Committee on Agriculture and in the Special Session negotiations on the basis, *inter alia*, of the tabled proposals and other inputs, including with respect to special and differential treatment in favour of developing countries.⁴⁷

2.32. The MC10 Decision on export competition, *inter alia*, includes disciplines in the area of export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes. Provisions towards a more favourable treatment of least-developed and net food-importing developing countries are included under "*Special and Differential Treatment*" (S&D) part of the disciplines. The S&D provisions provide for a

⁴² G/AG/11, Part B paragraph 3 II(b) refers.

⁴³ See G/AG/W/57 and G/AG/W/57/Add.1.

⁴⁴ Refer, for example, to G/AG/GEN/71, G/AG/GEN/76, G/AG/GEN/78, G/AG/GEN/90, G/AG/GEN/93, G/AG/GEN/94, G/AG/GEN/96, G/AG/GEN/97, G/AG/GEN/100, G/AG/GEN/107, G/AG/GEN/111, G/AG/GEN/121, G/AG/GEN/123, G/AG/GEN/123/Corr.1 and G/AG/GEN/136.

⁴⁵ G/AG/GEN/154 refers.

⁴⁶ G/AG/GEN/174 refers.

⁴⁷ See, for example, G/AG/16 and G/AG/16/Add.1.

longer repayment allowance for least-developed and net food-importing developing countries for the acquisition of basic food stuffs.⁴⁸ Pursuant to the transparency requirements in Annex to the Nairobi Decision on export competition, Members provide information, *inter alia*, on maximum repayment terms as well as export destinations in respect of their export financing support programmes.⁴⁹

2.4 Access to the resources of the international financial institutions

2.33. In the NFIDC Decision, Ministers further recognized that:

"[...] as a result of the Uruguay Round certain developing countries may experience short-term difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports and that these countries may be eligible to draw on the resources of international financial institutions under existing facilities, or such facilities as may be established, in the context of adjustment programmes, in order to address such financing difficulties. In this regard, Ministers take note of paragraph 37 of the report of the Director-General to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT 1947 on his consultations with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the President of the World Bank (MTN.GNG/NG14/W/35)". (Paragraph 5 of the NFIDC Decision)

2.4.1 Ability to finance commercial imports

2.34. The issue of financing of commercial imports of food by LDCs and NFIDCs has been regularly considered in the annual discussions on the follow-up to the NFIDC Decision. The Inter-agency panel report provided a detailed examination of the question of financing food imports by NFIDCs and LDCs.⁵⁰

2.35. The S&D disciplines in the area of export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes included in the MC-10 Decision on export competition also acknowledge and address "exceptional circumstances" that may be faced by LDCs and NFIDCs in respect of financing of normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs and/or in accessing loans by financial institutions.⁵¹

2.4.1.1 International food price developments and food import bills of LDCs and NFIDCs

2.36. At various stages of the Committee's annual monitoring exercise, international observer organizations have commented on the development of international food prices and their impacts on LDCs and NFIDCs.⁵² They have also reported on various actions undertaken in response to food security-related risks arising from developments in food prices and food price volatility.

2.37. Global actions to address food insecurity in general and food price volatility in particular, were also adopted within the G-20 framework. Recognizing the importance of timely and accurate market and policy information and transparency towards meeting the challenges posed by price volatility, the G-20 agriculture ministers agreed to launch the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) with a view to encourage policy dialogue and coordination of policy responses, and to build data

⁴⁸ Refer specifically to paragraph 17 of WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980.

⁴⁹ The information provided by Members within the context of an annual dedicated discussion on export competition is regularly compiled by the Secretariat (background notes in the G/AG/W/125/ document series refer).

⁵⁰ See WT/GC/62 - G/AG/13, in particular, Chapter II, Section A and the Conclusions in Chapter III. See also the contribution by UNCTAD in G/AG/GEN/68, pp. 16-18.

⁵¹ Paragraph 17 of WT/MIN(15)/45 - WT/L/980 refers.

⁵² See, for example, the observations by the FAO, IGC, OECD, WFP, IMF, UNCTAD and World Bank on rising food prices and possible impacts on LDCs and NFIDCs. The statements and contributions by international observer organizations can be found in the G/AG/GEN/-- document series. During the 2009-11, the WFP reported in detail on the activities and initiatives aimed at addressing global food insecurity and malnutrition (G/AG/GEN/90, G/AG/GEN/94 and G/AG/GEN/110). Similarly, in 2014, the OECD elaborated on the role of trade to food security paying specific attention to the dimensions of *availability* and *accessibility* and also on the relative cost of food imports in the total import bill of LDCs and NFIDCs (G/AG/GEN/123 and Corr.1).

collection capacity in participating countries. The AMIS Secretariat is housed in the FAO and other international organizations including the WTO contribute to the System.⁵³

2.38. The FAO also regularly monitors and reports on overall trends in cereal imports and cereal import bills in LDCs and NFIDCs. During the 2020 exercise, the FAO provided a detailed overview of the current global market situation and international price trends for major food commodities. Its report also dwelt on policy responses to COVID-19 in net food-importing developing countries, and shared recommendations to, *inter alia*, mitigate the immediate impact of the pandemic while strengthening the long-term resilience of food systems.⁵⁴

2.39. The previous revisions of the document have regularly included information on the evolution of the Grains and Oilseeds Index (GOI) of the IGC comprising of grains, rice and oilseeds price indices. In view of a significant contribution of grains, rice and oilseeds in LDCs and NFIDCs food imports, the trends in GOI may be a good indicator to assess trends in cereal import bills of these Members.⁵⁵ As chart 1 below shows, grains, rice and oilseed prices mostly trended lower from the latter part of 2012 to 2016. While production uncertainties and adverse weather events led to occasional price gains in the subsequent four years, price advances during that period were relatively brief, partly because of the existence of ample global stocks. However, with world inventories beginning to tighten, export prices have maintained a stronger tone more recently. Apart from rice, world markets have mostly strengthened since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. While supply chain disruptions contributed to some of the upside, gains were mostly driven by a rebound in global demand, along with less-than-ideal cropping weather across a number of key exporters. With support more recently stemming from heightened political tensions in the Black Sea region and uncertainties about the impact of export flows from that region, the index touched a more than nine-year peak in late-February, stoking fears about rising import bills and poor and vulnerable countries' access to food.

Chart 1: the IGC Grains and Oilseeds Index (GOI)* (2000-2021)



* IGC Grains and Oilseeds Index composition: wheat (27%), maize (24%), barley (4%), sorghum (1%), rice (7%), soybeans (34%), rapeseed/canola (2%). See <http://www.igc.int> for more details. January 2000 = 100.

Source: International Grains Council (IGC).

⁵³ The initial focus of AMIS is on four grains that are particularly important in international food markets, namely wheat, maize, rice and soybeans. For more details please refer to <http://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-about/en/>.

⁵⁴ G/AG/GEN/174.

⁵⁵ The global export prices and the GOI do not account for freight and transportation charges which constitute a substantial part of the overall import cost.

2.40. The annual monitoring discussions have specifically referred to overall trends in cereal imports and cereal import bills in the context of the monitoring of the food security situation in LDCs and NFIDCs and their ability to finance food imports. Cereals indeed form an important part of the import food basket of LDCs and NFIDCs as is evident from Table 1 below.

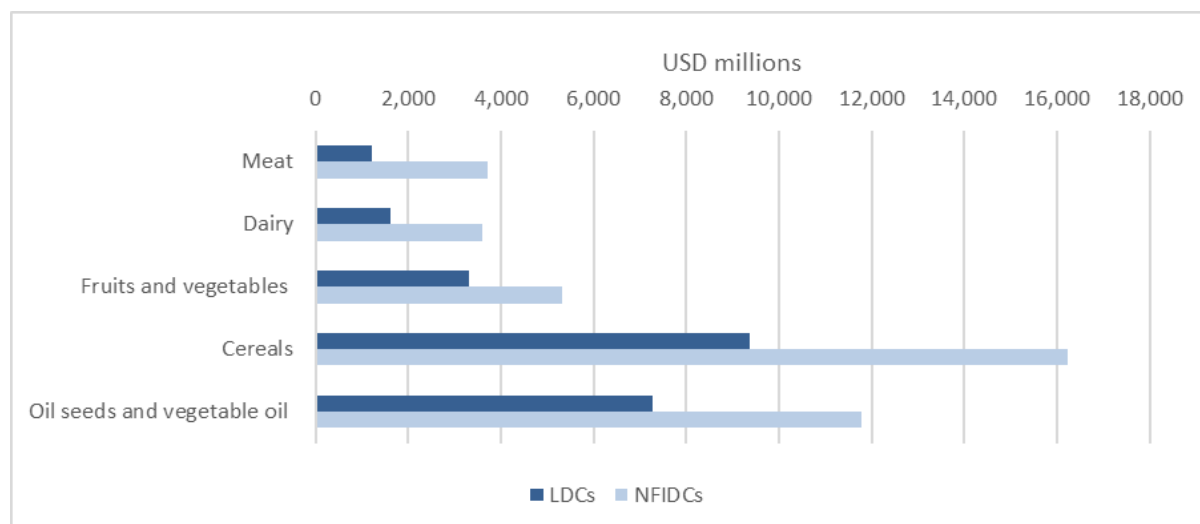
Table 1: Share of cereals in total agriculture imports during 2011-2020 (% terms)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
LDCs	21.1	17.9	21.0	22.3	19.8	20.8	23.1	23.0	20.6	22.6
NFIDCs	25.2	25.3	21.8	24.8	22.9	22.9	23.0	23.5	23.9	24.7

Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

2.41. During the annual NF discussions in the November 2018 meeting of the Committee, Egypt requested the Secretariat to examine the evolution of agriculture and food imports of LDCs and NFIDCs in order to better inform the annual monitoring discussions. Accordingly, the Secretariat considered the imports of cereals, dairy, fruits and vegetables, meats, and oilseeds and vegetable oils (hereinafter referred to as 'food basket')⁵⁶ in respect of LDCs⁵⁷ and NFIDCs. Chart 2 below shows the share of food product or product groups comprising the food basket in the total imports of LDCs and NFIDCs. Imports of cereals followed by oilseeds and vegetable oils contribute predominantly to the overall import bills of LDCs and NFIDCs.

Chart 2: LDCs and NFIDCs imports of individual products in the food basket (2020)

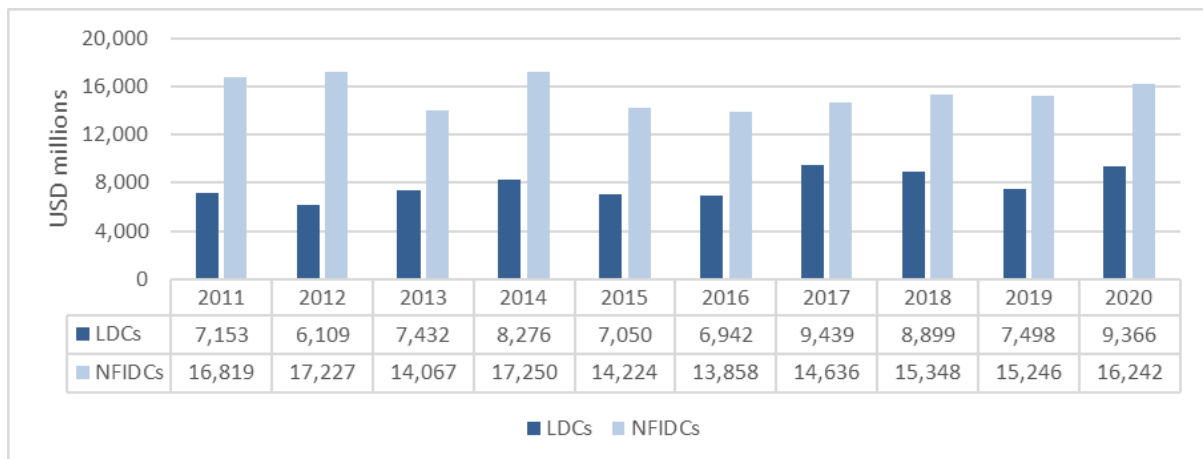


Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

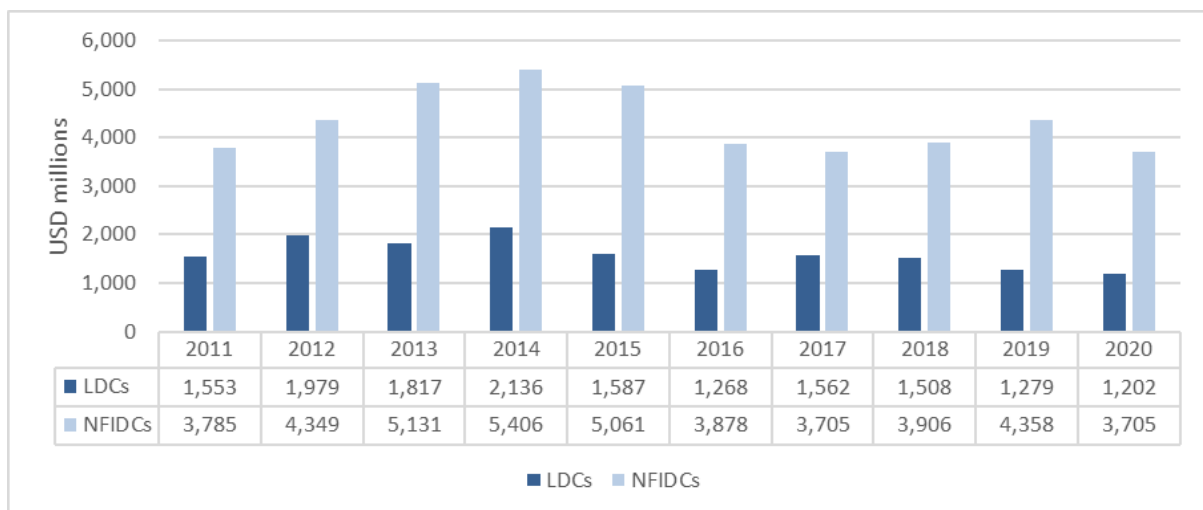
2.42. Charts 3 to 7 below show trends in LDCs and NFIDCs imports of individual products or product groups comprising the food basket over the period 2011 to 2020. As import figures are presented in value terms (US dollars), changes in commodity import prices and exchange rate movements may also have influenced trends in imports.

⁵⁶ Composition of the "food basket" in terms of the HS Chapters is as follows: meat (Chapter 2), dairy (Chapter 4), fruits and vegetables (Chapters 7 and 8), and oilseeds and vegetable oils (Chapters 12 and 15).

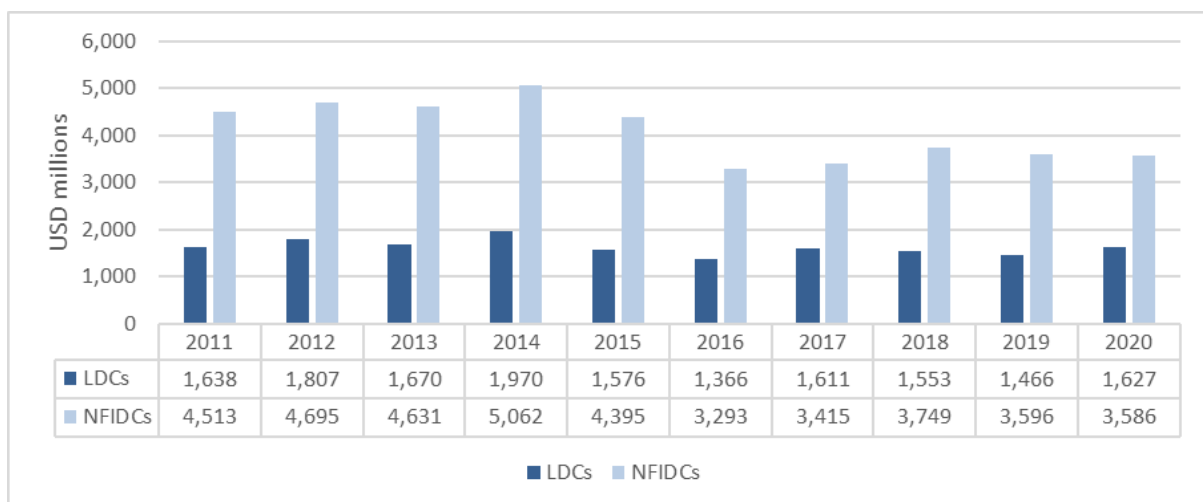
⁵⁷ Imports data of LDCs used in Section 2.4.1 corresponds to WTO LDC Members.

Chart 3: LDCs and NFIDCs imports of cereals during 2011-2020

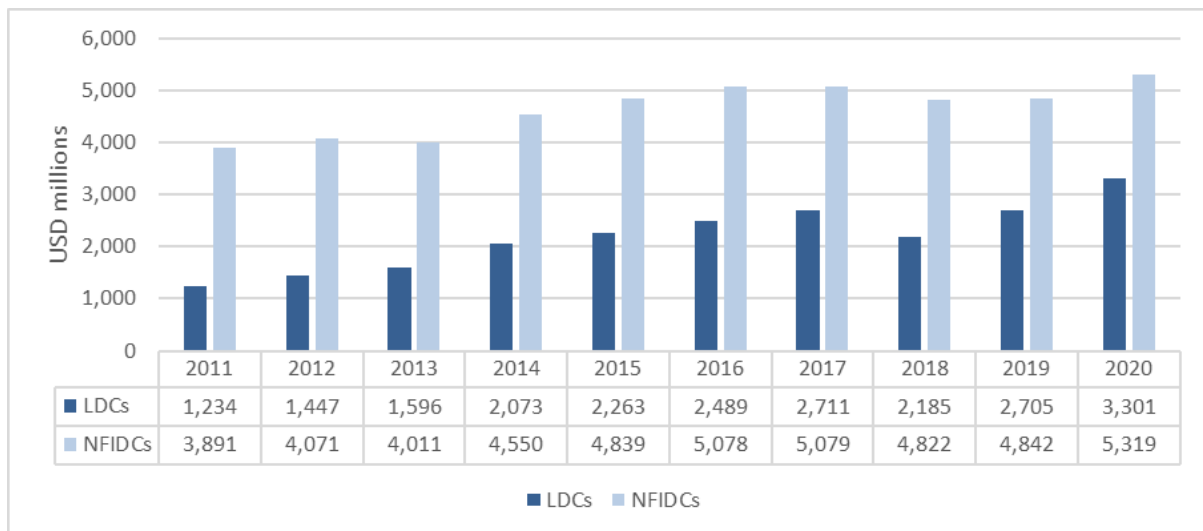
Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

Chart 4: LDCs and NFIDCs imports of meat during 2011-2020

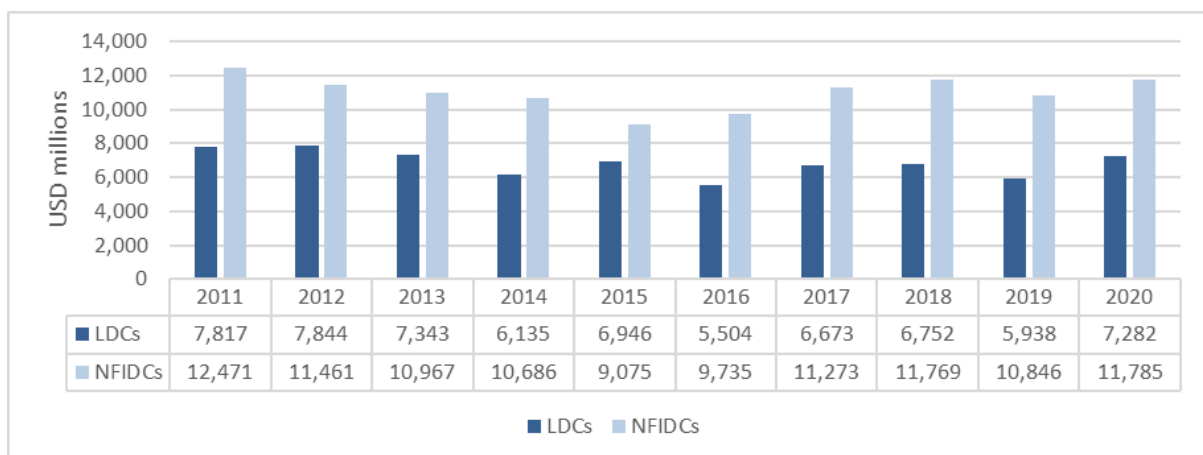
Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

Chart 5: LDCs and NFIDCs imports of dairy during 2011-2020

Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

Chart 6: LDCs and NFIDCs imports of fruits and vegetables during 2011-2020

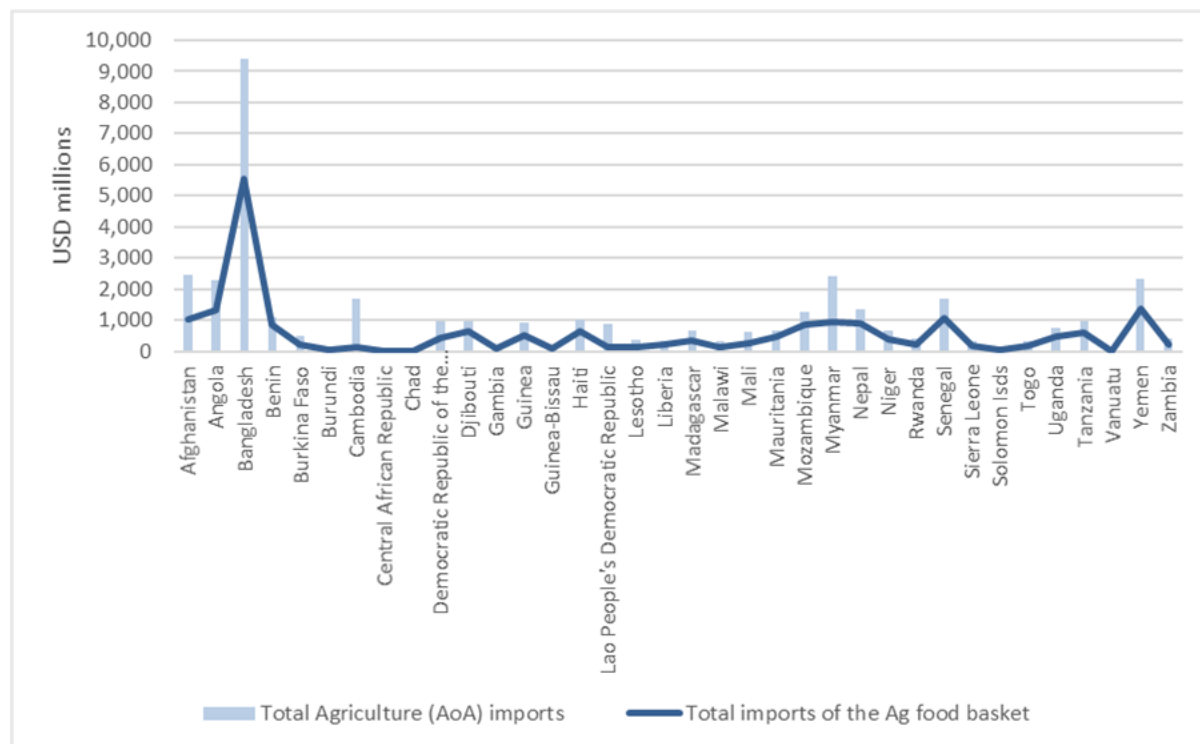
Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

Chart 7: LDCs and NFIDCs imports of oilseeds and vegetable oils during 2011-2020

Source: UN COMTRADE database (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

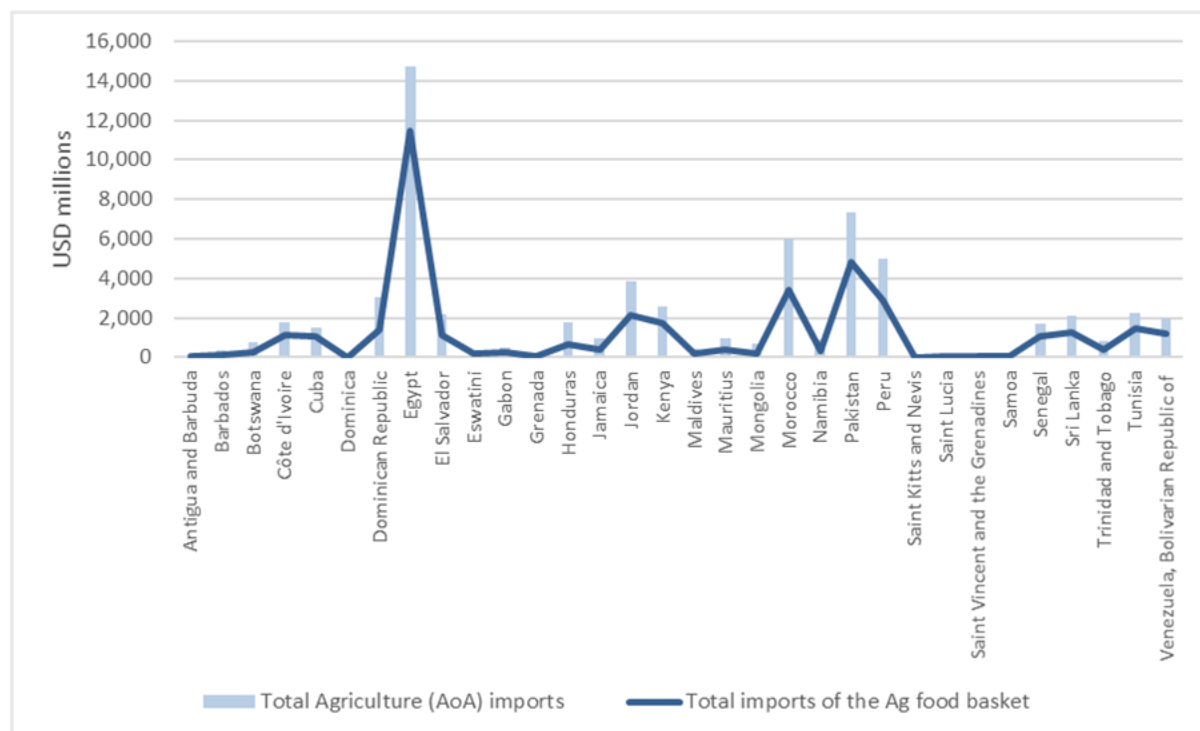
2.43. Charts 8 and 9 below present the import values of LDCs and NFIDCs of all agricultural products (as per the AoA definition) as well as of products comprising the food basket. For both the LDCs as well as the NFIDCs, the average share of imports of the food basket commodities in the overall agricultural imports is about 50%.

Chart 8: LDC imports of products in the food basket and of all agricultural products (average data based on 2018-20)



Source: UN COMTRADE data (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

Chart 9: NFIDC imports of products in the food basket and of all agricultural products (average data based on 2018-20)



Source: UN COMTRADE data (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

2.44. Table 2 includes data, individually in respect of all LDC and NFIDC Members, on total imports of products constituting the food basket as well of all agricultural products based on the AoA definition. The table also includes values of total merchandise imports and exports. A comparison of food imports (in column 2) with total merchandise exports (in column 5) might provide a rough indication of the adequacy of foreign exchange reserves to finance food imports.

Table 2 - Overall trade profile of LDCs and NFIDCs (Average data based on 2018-2020)

Members (LDCs and NFIDCs) 1	Total imports of items included in the agriculture food basket (USD million) 2	Total Agriculture (AoA) imports (USD million) 3	Total merchandise imports (USD million) 4	Total merchandise exports (USD million) 5
LDCs				
Afghanistan	1,021	2,462	7,165	1,664
Angola	1,330	2,303	11,011	34,240
Bangladesh	5,550	9,389	54,689	44,731
Benin	876	1,086	2,928	882
Burkina Faso	234	483	4,246	3,649
Burundi	64	135	863	171
Cambodia	150	1,695	18,961	15,080
Central African Republic	23	57	333	92
Chad	21	120	942	1,555
Democratic Republic of the Congo	416	963	7,186	11,211
Djibouti	628	968	5,437	190
The Gambia	93	158	504	21
Guinea	496	931	4,541	8,304
Guinea-Bissau	70	142	338	188
Haiti	660	1,018	3,721	1,210
Lao People's Democratic Republic	154	889	5,876	6,105
Lesotho	136	378	1,517	1,087
Liberia	221	320	11,515	1,462
Madagascar	361	651	3,751	2,594
Malawi	148	334	2,791	858
Mali	251	635	4,018	4,297
Mauritania	483	677	3,149	2,382
Mozambique	864	1,256	8,313	4,932
Myanmar	922	2,411	18,629	17,199
Nepal	890	1,342	9,548	884
Niger	404	684	2,412	1,242
Rwanda	239	418	2,501	1,034
Senegal	1,091	1,682	8,009	3,909
Sierra Leone	188	334	1,111	508
Solomon Islands	44	85	469	372
Togo	179	332	1,975	972
Uganda	466	759	6,295	2,646
Tanzania	593	960	10,785	4,723
Vanuatu	21	60	295	176
Yemen	1,363	2,328	6,188	470
Zambia	205	411	7,332	7,959

Members (LDCs and NFIDCs) 1	Total imports of items included in the agriculture food basket (USD million) 2	Total Agriculture (AoA) imports (USD million) 3	Total merchandise imports (USD million) 4	Total merchandise exports (USD million) 5
NFIDCs				
Antigua and Barbuda	48	119	640	70
Barbados	136	333	1,561	416
Botswana	285	787	6,328	5,205
Côte d'Ivoire	1,143	1,799	10,527	11,883
Cuba	1,033	1,506	5,164	1,731
Dominica	14	34	393	55
Dominican Republic	1,380	3,038	19,736	9,920
Egypt	11,496	14,717	73,794	28,977
El Salvador	1,096	2,198	11,391	5,631
Eswatini	155	353	1,765	1,865
Gabon	277	458	2,370	6,417
Grenada	33	70	318	35
Honduras	651	1,754	9,426	5,334
Jamaica	371	939	5,397	1,414
Jordan	2,108	3,849	18,884	8,002
Kenya	1,759	2,566	16,664	5,970
Maldives	221	395	2,188	222
Mauritius	410	933	5,165	1,803
Mongolia	201	661	5,767	7,403
Morocco	3,385	6,014	48,967	28,797
Namibia	293	898	7,733	6,448
Pakistan	4,823	7,321	52,000	23,206
Peru	2,843	5,012	40,528	44,301
Saint Kitts and Nevis	16	36	320	79
Saint Lucia	57	132	826	85
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	41	79	299	60
Samoa	47	88	373	48
Senegal	1,091	1,682	8,009	3,909
Sri Lanka	1,250	2,126	17,913	11,617
Trinidad and Tobago	390	801	5,876	9,840
Tunisia	1,477	2,229	20,310	14,797
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	1,176	1,973	7,724	18,828

Source: UN COMTRADE data (reported data, complemented by mirror data).

2.4.2 Access to the facilities of the IMF and the World Bank

2.45. The question of access to the resources of the international financial institutions has been the subject of a detailed examination by an Inter-agency panel of financial and commodity experts in 2002.⁵⁸

2.46. In the context of the Committee's annual monitoring exercise in December 2001, the IMF reiterated its position regarding the question of access to its resources by stating: "*With existing facilities and resources, the Fund is in a position to meet any balance of payments needs of our*

⁵⁸ See WT/GC/62 – G/AG/13.

members that may arise from higher world food prices."⁵⁹ In November 2009, the IMF described its reformed lending framework⁶⁰ for LDCs and NFIDCs, under which support was channelled through a new instrument under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT). The Contingent Financing Facility (CFF) was eliminated.⁶¹ In November 2012, the IMF informed the Committee about additional strengthening and streamlining of its various concessional financing and lending instruments. The IMF also considered that the reformed financing architecture was better tailored to diverse needs of the recipient countries, and reported that since the beginning of the global economic crisis in 2008, it had assumed 138 new lending commitments amounting to USD 534 billion (gross) and disbursed USD 154 billion.⁶²

2.47. The position of the World Bank regarding the issue of access to short-term multilateral financing was initially outlined in November 1997 as follows:

"The World Bank continues to monitor the progress of liberalization resulting from the implementation of commitments made under the Uruguay Round Agreement. A number of recent studies using different methodologies and assumptions confirm that the long run impacts of the Uruguay Round agreement on agricultural prices will be relatively small certainly far smaller than the price increases that have been experienced in recent years. Given the small size of the shocks resulting from the Round and the Bank's substantial headroom above current IBRD loans outstanding, it seems clear that the Bank will be in a position to meet any additional demands generated by the Round for loans on IBRD terms.

In response to the Ministerial Decision, a Working Group involving the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the IMF met in 1995 to address the special needs of least developed and net food-importing countries. The Working Group reviewed the range of facilities available for additional financing needs for developing countries in the event of world price shocks and production shortfalls and provided a report to the WTO in late 1995. Given the wide range of facilities and the small price impacts expected to arise as a consequence of the Round, and the difficulty involved in distinguishing Uruguay Round impacts from other shocks, it did not seem appropriate to establish a special Uruguay Round adjustment facility." (G/AG/GEN/15, page 3)

2.48. In more recent years, the World Bank has focused on the strengthening of the food security of developing countries and has developed strategies to deal with food price instability and its negative impacts. In cooperation with development partners, the World Bank studied ways to use commodity price insurance mechanisms as a tool to anticipate food crises, both at the farm and at the government level. According to the World Bank, food insecurity was best addressed through programmes designed to raise the purchasing power of the poor; reduce their exposure to negative income shocks; and improve the functioning of the global food distribution and food aid systems.⁶³ In November 2009, the World Bank reported on the launching of a Global Food Crisis Response Programme (GFRP) to mitigate the effects of soaring costs and to help countries adapt to higher and more volatile food prices. In 2011, the Bank informed the Committee that an allocation of USD 288 million would be made towards increasing livelihood protection as a rapid response measure under the Horn Regional Drought Response Plan.⁶⁴

⁵⁹ See G/AG/GEN/49, page 8.

⁶⁰ See G/AG/GEN/90.

⁶¹ See G/AG/GEN/94.

⁶² See G/AG/GEN/107.

⁶³ See, for example, G/AG/GEN/71 (pp. 15-17) for a detailed description of ex ante risk management systems (price related and weather related) and recently-launched joint WFP-World Bank pilot projects; and G/AG/GEN/73.

⁶⁴ See the contributions of the World Bank in G/AG/GEN/90 and G/AG/GEN/96.

Annex 1: List of notifications¹ under Article 16.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture (Table NF:1) for the reporting years 1995-2020

Year	Argentina	Australia	Canada	Cuba	European Union	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Japan	New Zealand	Norway	Russian Federation	South Africa	Switzerland	United States
1995	ARG/10	AUS/5	CAN/11	CUB/4	EEC/9			JPN/15	NZL/6	NOR/6		ZAF/7	CHE/23	
1996	ARG/10	AUS/13	CAN/18	CUB/5	EEC/21 & Add.1			JPN/27	NZL/13	NOR/19 & Corr.1		ZAF/9	CHE/23	USA/7
1997	ARG/10	AUS/21	CAN/25		EEC/21 & Add.1			JPN/33	NZL/17	NOR/20 & Corr.1		ZAF/17	CHE/23	USA/20
1998	ARG/10	AUS/25	CAN/34	CUB/14	EEC/25			JPN/46	NZL/25	NOR/26		ZAF/24	CHE/23	USA/21
1999	ARG/10	AUS/32/Rev.1	CAN/42		EEC/35			JPN/68	NZL/26	NOR/33			CHE/30	USA/31
2000	ARG/15	AUS/39	CAN/52		EEC/35			JPN/78	NZL/30	NOR/34 & Corr.1		ZAF/39	CHE/30	USA/46
2001	ARG/21	AUS/48	CAN/52		EEC/46 & Add.1			JPN/87	NZL/39	NOR/37		ZAF/42	CHE/30	USA/52
2002		AUS/51 & Corr.1	CAN/57	CUB/24	EEC/46 & Add.1			JPN/107	NZL/39	NOR/42		ZAF/50	CHE/30	USA/52
2003		AUS/57	CAN/57		EEC/50			JPN/125 & Corr.1	NZL/40	NOR/42		ZAF/56	CHE/39 & Corr.1	USA/56
2004		AUS/60	CAN/67		EEC/56			JPN/125 & Corr.1	NZL/45/Rev.1	NOR/44		ZAF/60	CHE/39 & Corr.1	USA/65
2005		AUS/68	CAN/72		EEC/56			JPN/144	NZL/56 & Corr.1	NOR/44		ZAF/67	CHE/39 & Corr.1	USA/65
2006		AUS/71	CAN/81		EU/1			JPN/145	NZL/56 & Corr.1	NOR/44		ZAF/69	CHE/53	USA/65
2007		AUS/75 & Corr.1	CAN/88	CUB/34	EU/2			JPN/145	NZL/60	NOR/54/Rev.1		ZAF/72	CHE/53	USA/76
2008		AUS/81	CAN/93		EU/3			JPN/160	NZL/60	NOR/54/Rev.1		ZAF/72	CHE/53	USA/76
2009		AUS/84	CAN/93		EU/4			JPN/172	NZL/68	NOR/60		ZAF/82	CHE/64	USA/83
2010		AUS/93	CAN/100	CUB/43	EU/15			JPN/180	NZL/71	NOR/62		ZAF/82	CHE/64	USA/90
2011		AUS/93	CAN/100	CUB/46	EU/15			JPN/199	NZL/77	NOR/68		ZAF/82	CHE/64	USA/97 & Corr.1
2012		AUS/93		CUB/46	EU/21			JPN/229	NZL/82	NOR/70		ZAF/82	CHE/76	USA/98
2013		AUS/98	CAN/115 & Corr.1		EU/21	IDN/48 & Corr.1		JPN/229	NZL/95	NOR/79		ZAF/82	CHE/76	USA/105/Rev.1
2014		AUS/105	CAN/115 & Corr.1	CUB/55	EU/27	IDN/49 & Corr.1		JPN/229	NZL/95	NOR/84	RUS/7	ZAF/89	CHE/76	USA/113
2015		AUS/108	CAN/132	CUB/55	EU/32	IDN/50		JPN/229	NZL/95	NOR/88	RUS/14	ZAF/102	CHE/81 & Corr.1	USA/116

¹ The Table lists notifications circulated as of 24 February 2022.

Year	Argentina	Australia	Canada	Cuba	European Union	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Japan	New Zealand	Norway	Russian Federation	South Africa	Switzerland	United States
2016		AUS/119	CAN/133		EU/42	IDN/51		JPN/229	NZL/101	NOR/93	RUS/17	ZAF/103	CHE/85	USA/119
2017		AUS/124	CAN/130		EU/49				NZL/114	NOR/100	RUS/20	ZAF/104	CHE/86/Rev.1	USA/129
2018		AUS/134			EU/54	IDN/62	KOR/74		NZL/115	NOR/107	RUS/25		CHE/97	USA/145
2019					EU/60 & Corr.1		KOR/75		NZL/123	NOR/113	RUS/28		CHE/105	USA/146
2020					EU/67		KOR/86		NZL/128	NOR/118	RUS/33		CHE/112	USA/160
2021							KOR/87							

- Notes:
- i) A blank cell indicates that no notification was received for the reporting year concerned.
 - ii) An annual NF notification requirement is applicable only when actions within the framework of the NFIDC Decision are taken in the relevant year. A "nil return" is not required in the absence of such actions.
 - iii) Notifications stating no actions were taken within the framework of the NFIDC Decision are not included.
 - iv) Annual reporting periods ("year") differ among Members. Notification symbols in the table refer to notifications in the G/AG/N/-- series.

Annex 2: Summary of Table of NF:1 Notifications

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
Australia	G/AG/N/AUS/134 (4 March 2020) covering the financial year 2018-19	Australia provided AUD 66.09. million in food assistance to LDCs and NFIDCs in the form of cash-based support to the UN World Food Programme for emergency relief. For a breakdown by recipient countries, please refer to the notification.	All food assistance was provided in fully grant form.	<p>Australia provided AUD 400.5 million for programmes within the ambit of the Decision, including AUD 279.8 million directed to LDCs and NFIDCs.</p> <p>The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is primarily responsible for delivering Australia's aid program.¹ This aid program includes work to improve agriculture and rural development in LDCs and NFIDCs. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) also assists LDC and NFIDCs through its Global Program.² ACIAR's purpose is to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia, through international agricultural research partnerships.</p> <p>The bilateral and regional technical and financial assistance (that covers majority of Australia's aid) was approximately AUD 139.8 million, focussing on agricultural productivity and sustainability; crop storage; environmental management; developing markets; provision of infrastructure related to food security and assisting countries adjust to changes in trade patterns.</p> <p>In 2018-19, ACIAR directed \$97.6 million to programmes within the ambit of the decision, of which \$69.2 million was directed to programmes in LDCs and NFIDCs. See Annex C for a breakdown of ACIAR's administered expenditure for 2018-19. Australia also supports scholarship students from LDCs and NFIDCs on agriculture, forestry and fisheries.</p>	Other Federal and State Government agencies (other than DFAT and ACIAR) sponsored official exchanges with developing countries on agriculture and food security, amounting to about AUD 13.7 million, of which AUD 0 million was directed at LDCs and NFIDCs.

¹ Detailed information on Australia's aid program is available at <https://dfat.gov.au/>.

² Detailed information on ACIAR's Global Program is available at <https://www.aciar.gov.au/>.

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
Canada	G/AG/N/CAN/130 (8 October 2019) covering the <i>calendar year 2017</i>	Total food assistance reported under the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) ³ was more than CAD 362 million, of which around CAD 239 million was directed to NFIDCs and LDCs. Food assistance incorporates provision of eligible products, cash, vouchers, and nutritional interventions. For a breakdown by recipient countries, please refer to the notification.	All food assistance was provided in fully grant form. ⁴	<p>Canada provided humanitarian assistance funding (including food assistance) to help those affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies in 57 countries.</p> <p>In terms of geographical distribution of the food assistance for 2017, almost 50% of Canada's food assistance went to sub-Saharan Africa, 28.5% went to the Middle-East and Northern Africa, 12.8% went to Asia, 8.9% went to the Americas and a little less than 0.2% went to the crisis in Ukraine.</p> <p>Canada provided long-term support of CAD 50 million over five years to WFP for gender-sensitive school feeding programme in conflict areas for protracted humanitarian contexts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Syria and Lebanon.</p> <p>Canada allocated CAD 120.7 million to International Development Research Centre (IDRC) which undertook disbursements in the agriculture sector totalling CAD 4.4 million. A review for FY2013/2014 of IDRC identified 15 projects in agriculture and related sectors in LDCs and NFIDCs with a value of CAD 3.9 million. For a breakdown by recipient countries, please refer to the notification.</p>	Canada provided its food assistance in 2014 through 25 UN agencies and NGOs. The WFP continued to receive the majority of Canada's food assistance funding, amounting to 63% of Canada's total food assistance allocations. The Micronutrient Initiative and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank received 15% and 7% of Canada's contribution respectively. The remainder was provided to Action Against Hunger, the ICRC and other Canadian and international NGOs.

³ As a signatory to the 2013 Food Assistance Convention (FAC), Canada established a minimum annual food assistance level of CAD 250 million.

⁴ Since 2008, Canada has fully untied its food assistance budget, opening up 100% of its food assistance budget to international procurement and supporting the purchase of food in developing countries.

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
European Union	G/AG/N/EU/67 (11 February 2021) covering the <i>calendar year 2020</i>	The total food assistance and nutrition funding allocations for LDCs and NFIDCs was EUR 239 million which was spent mostly on products, logistics, support operations and transport, flanking measures and measures to monitor implementation of humanitarian food assistance and nutrition programmes, as well as livelihoods protection programmes. In addition to this amount, EUR 56 million of assistance were provided in the form of multi-purpose cash transfers. The proportion of this amount that was ultimately spent for food and nutrition purposes cannot be known with certainty, but is estimated to represent at least one third of the total transfer. ⁵ In total, food assistance or multi-purpose cash transfers were provided for vulnerable, food and nutrition insecure populations in 65 countries or territories, of which 40 were LDCs or NFIDCs. For a breakdown by recipient countries, please refer to the notification.	All food assistance was provided fully in grant form. Local and regional purchase was encouraged, whenever possible, with a view to avoid harmful effects of imported food on the local markets.	The European Commission provided the reported food assistance to the most vulnerable victims of natural and man-made disasters. The allocation of assistance was decided firmly based on needs and in line with the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.	The implementation of the food assistance funded by the European Commission was carried out by UN agencies and other international organizations, international NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent family.
Indonesia	G/AG/N/IDN/62 (15 October 2019) covering the <i>calendar year 2018</i>	-	-	Indonesia held international training on processing technology of agricultural husbandry products for african countries (Participants: South Africa, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe). In addition, Indonesia provided assistance in the form of 100 units of hand tractors to Fiji amounting to 5.8 billion IDR.	-

⁵ In 2010, the EU adopted its Humanitarian Food Assistance Policy, which captures the shift from food aid to food assistance so as to cover the acute food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable populations in the most efficient and effective manner.

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
Japan	G/AG/N/JPN/229 (15 November 2018) covering the <i>calendar year 2016</i>	Japan grants funds to be used to purchase food and granted USD 38.13 million in 2016 for food purchase. For a breakdown by recipient countries, please refer to the notification.	All the funds were granted in fully grant form.	Japan provided grant aid of USD 106.19 million and USD 134.59 million in technical cooperation. In addition, Japan provided ODA loans (grant element more than 25%) worth USD 150.24 million towards technical and financial assistance.	Japan provided grant aid of USD 151.38 million and USD 211.92 million in technical cooperation to developing countries (including aid given to Eastern Europe and graduated countries). In addition, Japan provided ODA loans (grant element more than 25%) worth USD 321.67 million to developing countries
Korea, Republic of	G/AG/N/KOR/87 (17 February 2022) covering Calendar year 2021	Korea, Republic of provided food aid through the World Food Programme to the following countries (in USD million): Kenya: 4.10; Yemen: 14.51; Ethiopia: 11.52; Uganda: 8.56; Lao People's Democratic Republic: 1.26.	All Korean food aid is provided in fully grant form.	-	-
New Zealand	G/AG/N/NZL/128 (6 October 2021) covering the <i>financial year 2020/21</i>	New Zealand provides humanitarian support through many channels, including grants (including un-earmarked core funding and funding earmarked at the country level), deployable technical assistance, relief supplies, and early recovery projects through in-country partners such as non-government organisations. In 2020/21, New Zealand's core funding to multilateral agencies (WFP, CGIAR - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and IFAD) amounted to NZD 11,000,000. Emergency food aid in response to appeals included NZD 7,688,057 through international organizations and the grant contributions may have included food aid.	All financial support for food aid was in full grant form.	New Zealand provided a total of NZD 30,517,931 and NZD 4,249,546 in technical and financial assistance in the Pacific and African regions respectively, through the global/regional channels. Under the bilateral channels, New Zealand provided NZD 7,201,245 to Pacific countries, NZD 10,537,131 to Asia and NZD 3,385,458 to Africa and Americas.	The New Zealand Aid Programme funds scholarships and Short-Term Training Awards to students from developing countries who wish to study at New Zealand institutions. It also provides support to the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. In addition, New Zealand diplomatic posts supply information relevant to accessing the New Zealand market to developing country exporters.

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
Norway	G/AG/N/NOR/118 (27 September 2021) covering the <i>calendar year 2020</i>	Norway provides food aid in the form of economic assistance through organizations such as WFP that includes long term development programmes as well as emergency relief aid. Norway's total contribution to food aid amounted to NOK 2,153 million in 2020.	All food aid was provided in fully grant form.	Norwegian development assistance included: a) 934 million channelled through the World Food Programme which included NOK 300 million as 'core contribution' and NOK 634 million towards 'multi-bilateral support'. Of the multi-bilateral support, 275.3 million is directed to LDCs. b) As a part of long-term development programmes, Norwegian bilateral aid to selected DAC sectors (e.g. agriculture, fishing) and partners amounted to around NOK 1,183 million (including aid channelled through the WFP) and NOK 1,057 million (excluding aid channelled through the WFP) c) Bilateral food-related emergency relief aid to LDCs (including bilateral and multi-bilateral assistance) amounted to around NOK 336 million. 224 million of the multi-bilateral aid to LDCs is channelled through the World Food Programme.	-
Russian Federation	G/AG/N/RUS/33 (31 May 2021) covering the <i>calendar year 2020</i>	Russia provided or financed food aid worth USD 15 million to LDCs, USD 2 million to NFIDCs and USD 35 million to other countries. The food aid was channelled through the WFP.	All food aid was provided in fully grant form.	-	-
South Africa	G/AG/N/ZAF/104 (15 September 2021) covering the <i>calendar year 2017</i>	-	-	South Africa provided: - ZAR 7 million to the WFP for Humanitarian Assistance in the Republic of Somalia; - ZAR 8 million to the WFP for Humanitarian Assistance in the Republic of Sierra Leone; and - ZAR 8 million to the WFP for Humanitarian Assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Maria in the Caribbean Islands. - ZAR 3 million to FAO in response to emergency appeal to address continental food insecurity challenge in Africa; and -ZAR 10.98 million through the African Agricultural Development Programme (AADP) for technical assistance for the purpose of Dairy Production in Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi.	-

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
Switzerland	G/AG/N/CHE/112 (5 November 2019) covering the <i>calendar year 2018</i>	<p>Food assistance consists of cash contributions and deliveries of dairy products of Swiss origin.⁶ Food assistance is complemented by Switzerland's global advocacy efforts and its commitment to tackling the root causes of hunger, for example through support to agricultural research, promotion of small-scale farmers and reduction of post-harvest losses.</p> <p>In the area of food assistance, Switzerland works in close partnership with international organizations, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP). In 2018, it contributed to approximately in the area of food CHF 66 million to the WFP.</p> <p>Food aid is not allocated on the basis of the criteria of LDCs or NFIDCs. Swiss funds for food assistance operations are instead allocated in accordance with the following criteria: needs (populations affected, urgency and lack of funds), potential synergies with other Swiss programmes, or the presence of a Swiss cooperation office. For details of funds allocated to LDCs and NFIDCs for food and nutritional assistance, please refer to the notification.</p>	All food aid was provided on fully grant terms.	<p>Switzerland's official development assistance (ODA) amounted to CHF 3.02 billion in 2018. Through its development aid, Switzerland supports the work of developing countries with a view to improving the standard of living of their people, strengthening their capacity to assume greater responsibility and ensuring their development by their own means.</p> <p>The SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) is responsible for the general coordination of technical and financial assistance to countries and regions of the South, namely the majority of low-income countries.</p> <p>The SECO (Economic Cooperation and Development Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) implements the economic and trade policy measures related to development cooperation with middle-income countries in particular. Through cooperation with countries in transition, the SDC and SECO both lend their support to a sustainable transition towards democracy and the market economy.</p> <p>Swiss humanitarian aid and emergency assistance by the SDC takes a number of forms: the mobilization of specialists from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) and other crisis units; the distribution of food aid through Swiss relief agencies and the World Food Programme (WFP); and the granting of financial support to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) activities and UN humanitarian organizations. The SDC also supports non-governmental humanitarian organizations working in the field.</p>	

⁶ Switzerland has been a contracting party to the Food Assistance Convention.

Member	Latest Notification	Quantity of food aid provided to LDCs and NFIDCs	Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms	Technical and financial assistance under Paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision	Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision
1	2	3	4	5	6
United States of America	G/AG/N/USA/160 (1 December 2021) covering the <i>fiscal year 2020</i>	The total quantity of food assistance provided to LDCs and NFIDCs was 1,361,744 tonnes ⁷ . For a breakdown of food aid commodities, please refer to the notification.	Food assistance under Title II, Food for Progress, and Food for Education programs was provided in fully grant form.	<p>The following measures were reported⁸:</p> <p>a) U.S. Department of State assistance to agriculture amounting to USD 786,096,000 that included expenditures on crop production, livestock production, resource management, infrastructure, policies and planning, training and extension, and agribusiness credit;</p> <p>b) The Department of Agriculture allocated USD 1,590,000, USD 2,800,000, and USD 5,625,979 to the Borlaug Fellowship Program, the Cochran Fellowship Program and the Emerging Markets Program respectively.</p> <p>c) U.S. contributions to multilateral organizations with an agricultural emphasis (e.g. UNDP, FAO, WFP) amounted to USD 4,165,601,439</p> <p>d) Peace Corps funds to support agricultural volunteers amounting to USD 10,307,500, (LDC share equalling USD 8,800,500 and USD 1,507,000 for the NFIDCs). Volunteers provide technical assistance, <i>inter alia</i>, to produce agricultural products and by-products, increase agricultural productivity, safely use agricultural chemicals, and process, store or market agricultural goods and by-products.</p> <p>e) Value of food assistance used in development programmes amounted to USD 688,614,908. The amount represents the USD value of the commodities donated under Title II, Food for Progress, and Food for Education food aid programs that were monetized. The amount includes USD 297 million of Title II funds; 91% of Title II development programmes were in LDCs and NFIDCs.</p>	WTO developing countries, LDCs and NFIDCs benefited from the U.S. Government officially-supported export credit guarantee programs worth USD 2,117,800,833.

Note: Based on the latest Table NF:1 notifications circulated by Members up to 24 February 2022.

⁷ Includes some regional groups, within which is a least-developed or net food-importing country.

⁸ All of the figures reported represent budgetary obligations or estimates for the reporting period.