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**Committee on Agriculture
Special Session**

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FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON MARKET ACCESS

COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, ECUADOR, PARAGUAY, UKRAINE AND URUGUAY

The following communication, dated 17 May 2021, is being circulated at the request of the aforementioned Members.

Recalling the long-term objective in the preamble of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) "to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system", and to "provide for substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection (...), resulting in correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets";

Recognizing that Article 20 of the AoA mandates the continuation of the reform process and the consideration of what further commitments are necessary to achieve the long-term objectives set out in its preamble;

Acknowledging the need to progressively move towards levelling the playing field for international trade in agricultural goods;

Emphasizing the importance of transparency for the continuation of the reform process and the vital role notifications play in informing other Members about agricultural policies being implemented;

Members agree on the following principles underlying the negotiation of new disciplines on the pillar of market access:

1. Members commit to reduce tariff barriers and substantially increase market access for agricultural goods [within 10 years]. Negotiations shall start [no later than 2022].
2. With the aim of achieving this goal, Members shall negotiate new disciplines [by MC13]. These negotiations shall take into account all elements within this pillar that will result in improved and less restrictive market access conditions.¹
3. The contribution by individual Members in these reductions will need to be proportionate to Members' level of tariff barriers, market access concessions as well as their patterns of participation and potential impact in the global agriculture markets, taking into account individual Members' needs.
4. Flexibilities, when appropriate, may include, *inter alia*, the development of options for cuts across the different elements of the market access pillar and across other pillars.
5. The implementation of the future disciplines on market access shall take into account Members' needs for sequencing with domestic support.

¹ Including, but not limited to, the development of modalities that will allow for further cuts in bound rates, substantial reduction of tariff peaks and tariff overhang, tariff simplification, narrowing of existing gaps in tariff rates between processed and raw agricultural goods and the revision tariff-rate quotas.

6. Members will show the utmost restraint in the use of non-tariff barriers in order to preserve market access conditions and not undermine future concessions, upholding the principles and obligations set out in the relevant WTO Agreements, such as the SPS and TBT Agreements.
 7. To ensure transparency for the implementation of market access reform, all efforts must be made to comply with current notification obligations under this pillar.
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