

Outcome of WTO's Bali Ministerial and Preparedness for Nairobi Meeting

Regional Workshop on WTO and Regional Trade Agreements in South Asia: Negotiation and Implementation issues

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Least Developed Countries

- Poorest members of the world community.
- Comprise about 12% of the world's population.
- Account for less than 2% of world GDP.
- About 1% of global trade in goods.
- Participation in global trade in services is even less.
- 48 LDCs designated by the United Nations, of which 34 are now WTO members while another nine are negotiating to join the WTO.

WTO and LDCs

- The WTO agreement recognizes that LDCs need special treatment and assistance to achieve their development objectives.
- WTO agreements include provisions aimed at increasing LDCs' trade opportunities and allowing LDCs flexibility in implementing WTO rules.
- The WTO together with other international agencies have also established special programs to support LDCs in enhancing their participation in the global trading system.

WTO Bali Package

- The 9th WTO's Bali Ministerial Conference concluded on 7 December 2013 with agreement on a package of issues designed to streamline trade, allow developing countries more options for providing food security, boost least developed countries' trade and help development more generally

TWO PARTS

- Part I arises from regular ongoing WTO work under the General Council and is related to TRIPS, e-commerce, small economies, Aid for Trade, and trade and transfer of technology.
- Part II of the package includes those selected items from the original Doha Development Agenda that WTO members could agree on during the Ministerial Conference. The most important elements are on trade facilitation, agriculture and food security and special provisions for the least developed countries.

TRADE FACILITATION

- To simplify customs procedures through this legally binding agreement has the objectives: to speed up customs procedures; make trade easier, faster and cheaper; provide clarity, efficiency and transparency; reduce bureaucracy and corruption, and use technological advances. It also has provisions on goods in transit, an issue particularly of interest to landlocked countries seeking to trade through ports in neighbouring countries.

AGRICULTURE PART

- Shielding public stockholding programmes for food security in developing countries, so that they would not be challenged legally even if a country's agreed limits for trade-distorting domestic support were breached. This is an interim solution with the aim to produce a permanent solution in four years.
- Handling “tariff quota administration” (TRQ), i.e. how a specific type of import quota (a “tariff quota” where volumes inside the quota have a lower duty) is to be handled when the quota is persistently under-filled. Members have agreed on a combination of consultation and providing information when quotas are under-filled.
- A strong political statement to ensure export subsidies and other measures with similar effect are low.
- Improving market access for cotton products from least developed countries, and with development assistance for production in those countries.



LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PACKAGE

decisions for facilitating their exports to the countries' markets:

preferential market access on at least 97% of products
Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) market access to the countries' markets. Many countries have already done this, and the decision says countries that have not "shall seek to" improve the number of products covered.

and preferential rules of origin to make it easier for least developed countries to export their products.

waiver", allowing least developed countries preferential access to other countries' services markets.

prepared? Are they analysing their needs for the 2020s? What has been recommended by the Facilitating Committee ?

Demand for Nairobi?