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# A sector-perspective: Agriculture in the WTO

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# Why do we have an Agreement on Agriculture?

- Special role of the sector
- History of distortions in agriculture sector
- Sequence of negotiations on NTBs



# Agriculture negotiations – Timeline

- 2000 Agriculture talks start – Built-in Agenda (Art 20 of the AoA)
- 2001 Doha Negotiations launched (DDA)
- March 2003 - Modalities deadline missed
- 2003 Cancún Ministerial – failure to conclude modalities
- 2004 “July Framework”
- 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial
- July 2006 – draft modalities (W/3) – negotiations suspended
- Late 2006 – “Quiet diplomacy”
- Early 2007 – Resumption of negotiations
- Aug 2007 – revised draft modalities (W/4)
- Fall 2007 – intensive negotiations
- Feb - May 2008 - revised draft modalities - W/4/Rev.1, Rev.2 & Rev.3
- July 2008 – failure to conclude modalities
- Dec 2008 – W/4/Rev.4 draft modalities
- 2009-2010 – [Data, templates, clarification](#)
- 2011

# Doha negotiations mandate

## Comprehensive negotiations aimed at:

- Substantial improvements in market access
- Reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies
- Substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support
- S&D - integral to all elements of the negotiations
- Non-trade concerns to be taken into account

# What is at stake?

- Tariff reductions – continued reform process with a high level of ambition.
- Improved possibility for developing countries to increase trade with developed countries but also other developing countries.
- Flexibility for developing countries to protect their sensitive sectors.
- Reduction of trade-distorting domestic support and elimination of export subsidies for improved competition, both on domestic and international markets.
- No new concessions for LDCs but duty- and quota-free access for 97 percent of tariff lines.

# Preamble of the AoA

- “A basis for initiating a process of reform of trade in agriculture”.
- “To establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system”.
- “Long-term objective is to provide for substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection sustained”.
- “*Committed* to achieving specific binding commitments...: market access; domestic support; export competition; and to reaching an agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary issues”.



# The three “Pillars”



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