



Draft Agriculture Modalities for the Doha Round: Taking Stock of the Trade and Development Implications

Room C1, World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland
12 March 2008

The publication of Ambassador Falconer's revised modalities draft on 8 February is a critical step in the Doha Round. WTO Members must now reflect on the extent to which the proposed modalities live up to the mandated objectives of the Round, take stock of probable gains and losses, and examine potential trade-offs between negotiating areas. By providing a forum for stakeholders to explore empirical assessments of the implications of the draft text for specific products, from specific exporters and in specific markets, ICTSD, IPC and IFPRI hope that WTO Members will be able to reach informed decisions on the next steps to take in the negotiations and enable a range of stakeholders to understand better the issues at stake.

8:30 - 8:45

Arrivals

8:45 - 9:30

Welcoming remarks

Mr. Ricardo MELENDEZ-ORTIZ
Chief Executive, ICTSD

Prof. Timothy JOSLING
Professor Emeritus at the Food Research Institute, Stanford University. Member, IPC.

'Tour du table': brief introduction of participants

9:30 – 11:00

SESSION I: Overview of the modalities draft

This session will explore how ambitious the modalities are in the three pillars, the extent to which they live up to the Doha Development Mandate, and assess how they will translate into national reforms and new trade opportunities. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to compare the proposed draft with the URAA outcome, to assess how 'balanced' modalities are between the three pillars, and look at possible trade-offs across them. Furthermore, it will enable participants to discuss the relative gains and losses for developing countries and LDCs, and identify which issues are still outstanding and may thus need to be decided at ministerial level.

Moderator: Ms. Charlotte HEBEBRAND
Chief Executive and President, IPC

Resource Persons:

Mr. Michael GIFFORD
Former Chief Agricultural Trade Negotiator, Canada. Member, IPC.

Mr. Raul MONTEMAYOR
President, Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives, the Philippines. Member, IPC.

Discussants:

Mr. Franz-Rudolf SCHLÖDER
First Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs), Permanent Delegation of the E.C. to WTO

Mr. Joseph O'MARA
Former Special Trade Negotiator, US Department of Agriculture

Mr. Shailendra AGARWAL
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the WTO

Open Discussion

11:00– 11:15

Coffee/Tea Break

11:15– 12:45

SESSION II: Domestic support and export competition

The session will explore whether the chair's text will lead to effective cuts in OTDS, AMS, blue box and product-specific support, using different price scenarios, and considering the implications of reclassifying direct payments in the amber rather than green box. It will analyse the extent to which the modalities would prevent support from being shifted between boxes without reform of its trade-distorting effects, and will seek to evaluate their impact on export competition in areas such as export financing and food aid.

Moderator:

Mr. Ricardo MELENDEZ-ORTIZ
Chief Executive, ICTSD

Resource Persons:

Prof. Timothy JOSLING
Professor Emeritus at the Food Research Institute, Stanford University. Member, IPC.

Prof. David BLANDFORD
Professor of Agricultural and Environmental Economics, the Pennsylvania State University

Mr. Mario JALES
Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE)

Discussants:

Prof. Gopinath MUNISAMY
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Oregon State University

Mr. Marco SCHEJTMAN
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO

H.E. Yonov Frederick AGAH
Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the WTO

Ms. Umpika POONNACHIT
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO

Open Discussion

12:45– 14:00

Lunch

14:00– 15:30

SESSION III: Market access

This session will analyse bound and applied rates, the proposed tariff cut formula, and rules on sensitive products, in an attempt to establish how much new market access will be provided to importers. It will examine the impact on tariff peaks, tariff escalation and preference erosion, and explore what new market access opportunities exporters can expect to obtain from the Round. It will examine the likely implications of modalities on special products and the special safeguard mechanism, by exploring the ramifications for particular products and trade patterns.

Moderator:

Mr. Christophe BELLMANN
Programmes Director, ICTSD

Resource Persons:

Mr. David LABORDE
Postdoctoral Fellow, IFPRI

Mr. Will MARTIN
Lead Economist, World Bank

Discussants:

Mr. HUANG Rengang
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO

Mr. Gabriel TABOADA
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the WTO

Emalene MARCUS-BURNETT
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Barbados to the WTO

Mr. V. MUNGUR
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the UN

Ms. Ivania DOBLES
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the WTO

Open Discussion

15:30– 15:45

15:45 – 17:15 **Session IV: Wrapping up the Round: key unresolved agriculture issues beyond the three pillars**

A number of key issues will be central for concluding a deal on agriculture - including both those related to agriculture (such as a possible peace clause, built-in agenda, and monitoring and surveillance disciplines) and those that are not (such as aid for trade and GIs). In the context of a changed external environment, where prices for agricultural commodities have reached new historical highs, this session will explore some of the agricultural issues that will need to be resolved if a deal is to be reached, looking beyond those in market access, export competition and domestic support.

Moderators:

Mr. Ricardo MELENDEZ-ORTIZ
Chief Executive, ICTSD

Ms. Charlotte HEBEBRAND
Chief Executive and President, IPC

Introductory remarks:

Mr. Michael GIFFORD
Former Chief Agricultural Trade Negotiator, Canada. Member, IPC.

Discussants:

H.E. Carlo TROJAN
Former EU Ambassador to the WTO. Member, IPC.

Mr. Mario JALES
Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE)

Mr. Raul MONTEMAYOR
President, Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives, the Philippines. Member, IPC.

Open Discussion

17:15– 17:45 **Closing**