

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/662
21 November 2003

(03-6218)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (REGULAR MEETINGS) GENERAL COUNCIL OVERVIEW OF WTO ACTIVITIES (2003)

Report by the Chairman

The present report on the regular meetings of the Committee on Agriculture held in 2003 is submitted on the responsibility of the Chairman, Dr. Magdi Farahat, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 20 November 2003.

1. The Committee on Agriculture held four regular meetings: on 27 March, 30 June, 25 September and 20 November 2003 (Secretariat summary reports of these meetings, G/AG/R/34 to G/AG/R/37 refer).

2. In accordance with Article 18.1 of the Agreement on Agriculture ("the Agreement"), at each of these meetings the Committee reviewed progress in the implementation of commitments negotiated under the Uruguay Round reform programme. This review process was undertaken on the basis of notifications submitted by Members in the areas of market access, domestic support and export subsidies and under the provisions of the Agreement relating to export prohibitions and restrictions. In total, 171 notifications in these four areas were subject to review in the Committee. At each of its meetings, the Committee also reviewed the overall position with respect to compliance with the notification obligations under Article 18.2 and other relevant provisions of the Agreement. The current situation concerning compliance with notification requirements is summarized in the Annex to this report.

3. The Committee addressed a wide range of general and specific matters relevant to the implementation of commitments that were raised, independently of notifications, under the provisions of Article 18.6 of the Agreement.

4. In the framework of the follow-up to the Decision by the Doha Ministerial Conference on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns (WT/MIN(01)/17, paragraph 2 refers), the following agricultural implementation-related issues were further considered by the Committee:

- (i) Article 10.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture: the development of internationally agreed disciplines to govern the provision of export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDC Decision);
- (ii) Examination of possible means of improving the effectiveness of the implementation of paragraph 5 of the NFIDC Decision regarding short-term difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs; and,

- (iii) Members' Addenda to their Table MA:1 notifications submitted to the Committee on Agriculture in accordance with the General Council Decision regarding the administration of tariff quota regimes in a transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory manner (paragraph 1.1 of WT/L/384 refers).

5. On the basis of its formal and informal discussions regarding short-term financing difficulties by least-developed and net food-importing developing countries in the context of paragraph 4(ii) above, a number of recommendations were adopted by the Committee (G/AG/16, paragraph 19 refers). These recommendations were approved by the General Council at its meeting on 24-25 July (WT/GC/M/81, paragraph 169 refer).

6. At its March meeting, the Committee decided to accept the application by Namibia to be included in the WTO list of net food-importing developing countries (G/AG/5/Rev.6 refers). This list currently comprises the least-developed countries as recognized by the United Nations and the following 24 developing country Members of the WTO: Barbados, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Venezuela.

7. At the meeting in September, the Committee held its annual Transitional Review under paragraph 18 of the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China (G/AG/18 and G/AG/R/36 refer).

8. The annual monitoring exercise on the follow-up to the NFIDC Decision as a whole was undertaken at the November meeting of the Committee, on the basis, *inter alia*, of Table NF:1 notifications by donor Members as well as contributions by the observer organisations.

9. The following international intergovernmental organizations have regular observer status in the Committee: the FAO, the IMF, the International Grains Council, the OECD, UNCTAD, the World Food Programme and the World Bank. No consensus was reached as regards requests for observer status by eleven other international/intergovernmental organizations (G/AG/W/29/Rev.5 refers).

ANNEX

OUTSTANDING NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION YEAR 1995

1. The following Member is yet to submit the notification of imports under tariff and other quotas. (Table **MA:2**):

Nicaragua

2. The following Member is yet to submit the annual notification concerning the use of the special safeguard provisions. (Table **MA:5**):

Swaziland

3. The following Members *without* Total AMS reduction commitments are yet to submit the relevant domestic support notification. (Table **DS:1**):

Antigua and Barbuda	Bahrain*	Belize	Brunei Darussalam
Cameroon	Côte d'Ivoire	Dominica	Ghana
Kuwait*	Mauritius	Saint Lucia	St Vincent & Grenadines
Senegal	Suriname	Swaziland	

4. The following Members *without* export subsidy reduction commitments are yet to submit the relevant notification. (Table **ES:1**):

Antigua and Barbuda	Bahrain	Belize	Brunei Darussalam
Burkina Faso	Burundi*	Cameroon	Central African Rep.
Côte d'Ivoire	Djibouti	Guinea Bissau	Guinea, Rep. of
India	Kuwait	Lesotho	Mali*
Mauritania	Mauritius	Mozambique	Saint Lucia
Senegal	St Vincent & Grenadines	Sierra Leone	Swaziland
Tanzania	Togo		

A " * " indicates a notification has been received. A request or suggestion by the Secretariat for additional information in order to complete the notification has yet to be responded to.

OUTSTANDING NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION YEAR 1996

1. The following Member is yet to submit the annual notification concerning the use of the special safeguard provisions. (Table **MA:5**):

Swaziland

2. The following Member *with* Total AMS reduction commitments is yet to submit the relevant domestic support notification. (Table **DS:1**):

Papua New Guinea

3. The following Members *without* Total AMS reduction commitments are yet to submit the relevant domestic support notification. (Table **DS:1**):

Antigua and Barbuda	Bangladesh*	Belize	Botswana
Brunei Darussalam	Burundi*	Cameroon	Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Djibouti	Dominica	Ghana
Grenada	Guatemala	Guinea Bissau	Guinea, Republic of
Kuwait	Lesotho	Mali*	Mauritania
Mauritius	Mozambique	Qatar	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia	St Vincent & Grenadines	Senegal	Sierra Leone
Suriname	Swaziland	Tanzania	Togo

4. The following Members *without* export subsidy reduction commitments are yet to submit the relevant notification. (Table **ES:1**):

Antigua and Barbuda	Belize	Benin	Brunei Darussalam
Burkina Faso	Burundi*	Cameroon	Central African Rep.
Chad*	Côte d'Ivoire	Djibouti	Gambia
Grenada	Guinea Bissau	Guinea, Rep. of	Kuwait
Lesotho	Mali*	Mauritania	Mauritius
Morocco	Mozambique	Papua New Guinea	Rwanda
St. Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia*	St Vincent & Grenadines	Senegal
Sierra Leone	Solomon Islands	Swaziland	Tanzania
Togo			

A " * " indicates a notification has been received. A request or suggestion by the Secretariat for additional information in order to complete the notification has yet to be responded to.

OUTSTANDING NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION YEAR 1997

1. The following Members are yet to submit the notification of imports under tariff and other quotas. (Table **MA:2**):

Malaysia*

2. The following Members are yet to submit the annual notification concerning the use of the special safeguard provisions. (Table **MA:5**):

Botswana and Swaziland

3. The following Member *with* Total AMS reduction commitments is yet to submit the relevant domestic support notification. (Table **DS:1**):

Papua New Guinea

4. The following Members *without* Total AMS reduction commitments are yet to submit the relevant domestic support notification. (Table **DS:1**):

Antigua and Barbuda	Bahrain*	Belize	Botswana
Brunei Darussalam	Burkina Faso*	Cameroon	Chad*
Congo	Côte d'Ivoire	Dominica	Ghana
Grenada	Kenya	Kuwait	Mauritius
Panama	Qatar	Rwanda	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia	St Vincent & Grenadines	Senegal	Solomon Islands
Suriname	Swaziland		

5. The following Member *with* export subsidy reduction commitments is yet to submit the relevant notification. (Table **ES:1**):

Panama*

6. The following Members *without* export subsidy reduction commitments are yet to submit the relevant notification. (Table **ES:1**):

Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Bahrain	Belize
Benin	Botswana	Brunei Darussalam	Burundi*
Cameroon	Central African Rep.	Chad*	Congo
Côte d'Ivoire	Dem. Rep. of Congo	Djibouti	Grenada
Guinea Bissau	Guinea, Rep. of	Kuwait	Lesotho
Mali*	Mauritania	Mauritius	Mozambique
Niger	Papua New Guinea	Rwanda	St. Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia*	St Vincent & Grenadines	Senegal	Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands	Swaziland	Tanzania	Togo

7. The following Members are yet to submit notifications of total exports. (Table **ES:2**):

Mexico*

Malaysia

Panama

A " * " indicates a notification has been received. A request or suggestion by the Secretariat for additional information in order to complete the notification has yet to be responded to.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEARS 1998-2002

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEARS 1998-2002

	MA:1 One-off	MA:2					MA:5					DS:1					ES:1					ES:2					
		Imports under tariff quotas					Special safeguard					Domestic support					Export subsidies					Total exports					
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Cuba	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cyprus	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X						X				
Czech Republic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Democratic Rep. Congo	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)							NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Djibouti	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)							NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dominica	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dominican Republic	X	NA	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
EC-15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ecuador	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Egypt	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X					X						NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
El Salvador	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Estonia (13 Nov 1999)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fiji	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (4 April 2003)		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Gabon	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X			X	X	X				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Gambia, The	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)									NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Georgia (14 Jun 2000)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X*	NA	NA	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ghana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						X	X	X				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Grenada	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guatemala	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guinea Bissau	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)									NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guinea, Republic of	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)									NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guyana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Haiti	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	X	(NA)	(NA)	X	X	X					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Honduras	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hong Kong, China	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Iceland	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
India	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						X	X	X				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEARS 1998-2002

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NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEARS 1998-2002

	MA:1 One-off	MA:2					MA:5					DS:1					ES:1					ES:2						
		Imports under tariff quotas					Special safeguard					Domestic support					Export subsidies					Total exports						
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002		
Nicaragua	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Niger	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)									NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Nigeria	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA											NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Norway	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Oman (9 Nov 2000)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	NA	NA					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Pakistan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X				X	X					X					
Panama	X	X	X*	X*	X*		X	X	X	X																		
Papua New Guinea	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Paraguay	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Peru	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Philippines	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X							
Poland	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Qatar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						X						NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Romania	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rwanda	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)								NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Saint Lucia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						X*	X*	X*				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
St Vincent & Grenadines	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Senegal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Sierra Leone	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)								NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Singapore	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Slovak Republic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Slovenia	X	X	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Solomon Islands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)								NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
South Africa	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sri Lanka	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Suriname	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA						X	X	X				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Swaziland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA												NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Switzerland-Liechtenstein	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X					X							X	X	X	X	X	

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE YEARS 1998-2002

	MA:1 One-off	MA:2					MA:5					DS:1					ES:1					ES:2				
		Imports under tariff quotas					Special safeguard					Domestic support					Export subsidies					Total exports				
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Chinese Taipei (1 Jan 2002)	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tanzania	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)								NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Thailand	X	X	X	X	X*		X	X	X	X		X	X*			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Togo	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(NA)	(NA)								NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Trinidad and Tobago	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X		X	X	X			NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tunisia	X	X	X	X	X*		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Turkey	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Uganda	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	(NA)	(NA)		X	X				NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
United Arab Emirates	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
United States	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Uruguay	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Venezuela	X	X	X	X	X		X					X				X						X				
Zambia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	(NA)	(NA)		X	X	X	X		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Zimbabwe	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X			X	X				X	X	X			

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- (a) A blank indicates that the requirement applies to the Member concerned for the implementation year, but that no notification was received up to the cut-off date.
- (b) An "X" indicates a notification has been received. No assessment of the completeness or quality of the notification with respect to requirements is made or implied. "X*" indicates that a request or suggestion by the Secretariat for additional information in order to complete the notification has yet to be responded to.
- (c) "NA" indicates that the requirement was not applicable during the period covered either because no relevant measures are in place (e.g. tariff quotas) or because the country concerned was not yet a WTO Member hence there were no notification requirements pertaining to that period. "(NA)" indicates that domestic support notifications are required every second year from LDC Members.
- (d) Shaded boxes indicate that the Member concerned has a domestic support and/or an export subsidy reduction commitment shown in Part IV, Section I and/or Section II, of its Schedule.