

TNC FORMAL SESSION APRIL 27 2015

STATEMENT FROM ARGENTINA

Thank you Mr. President: our solidarity with Nepal and our welcome to Seychelles. Thank you for convening this meeting and for your report on the state of the negotiations. Thanks we do extend to the chairs of the negotiating groups on their respective reports.

We associate ourselves with the statement by Brazil on behalf of the G20.

In agriculture, the process of setting down the ambition level seems lead to zero results in market access or to cosmetic improvements that will ensure the permanence of trade barriers inherited from the Uruguay Round. So far, the negotiating group has not addressed issues of market access that have a specific mandate and that are of central importance for developing countries, such as tariff peaks, tariff stepping, tariff-rate-quotas or tariff simplification, among others.

On domestic support, any advancement seems unlikely at the moment. The question that emerges then is if a Post-Bali agenda without any result in this pillar will be possible. Our answer is that it is not possible to a programme of work which does not progress in the reform process of agriculture in all the three pillars, particularly in exports competition. It is necessary to continue to work and explore alternatives on the basis of the mandate and the work already done.

We support the initiative of Cotton-4 to find a solution to the cotton in accordance with the mandate on domestic support. My delegation is ready to contribute.

On export competition we see with concern that beyond of the declared political will members who continue to make use of the export subsidies have put conditions to an early harvest of this pillar at the 10th Ministerial Conference. Let me stress that it will never be too early to harvest an effective result in the pillar of competition for exports.

In terms of the topics proposed by some delegations, such as geographical indications and restrictions on exports of Article 12 of the Agreement on Agriculture, allow me to point out, as for the first, that it has no mandate in Doha to

be negotiated and therefore is not a "remaining" Doha issue which can integrate the Post-Bali agenda; as for the second, it is not acceptable and therefore is not doable for the Argentina that disciplines on the side of the exporters, are strengthened when importers side remain without removing barriers to agricultural trade operating as an import ban.

The preparation of the programme of work is tied to the obtaining of advances in agriculture, therefore, in the time we have available between now and July we should concentrate on overcoming the impasse in domestic support and advance on market access issues not yet considered by the negotiating group.

Allow me to conclude that the Post-Bali work programme should focus on development and reflect in a balanced manner the interests of all developing countries, recognizing also the structural differences between the sectors of agriculture, industry and services that exists between developed and developing countries and LDCs. Thank you Mr. President.

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