



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Geneva, 04 February 2022

Subject: Committee on Agriculture @100 Celebratory event, 17 March 2022

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) will hold its 100th Session on 15-17 March 2022. This is an important occasion to celebrate the illustrious journey of the Committee spanning more than twenty-five years. Therefore, a half-day event on 17 March has been scheduled in the margins of the meeting to commemorate the achievements of the Committee. This will also be an occasion to celebrate the recent 25th anniversary of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA).

The Uruguay Round agricultural package under the AoA was the first comprehensive outcome in the domain of agriculture since the inception of the multilateral trading system in 1948. This was a significant achievement considering the nature and content of several commitments, including namely in the realm of agricultural subsidization, with several of these commitments operating on a 12-month or 'annual' cycle, ushering in a novelty for the international economic and legal architecture.

The task assigned to the Committee to follow-up on the implementation of Members' commitments under the AoA has been highly complex on the technical front and politically challenging at the same time. While recognizing that there is always room for improvement, I am sure you will all agree that the Committee has been able to chart a way forward through the maze of the complex AoA rules in an exemplary manner. Thus, imminent completion of the hundredth cycle of meetings of the Committee in March 2022 is naturally a moment to collectively cherish and celebrate, especially considering the significant role it has played in the expansion of trade in agricultural products in the last two decades.

The event on 17 March will provide an opportunity for us to collectively reflect on the achievements of the Committee, its role in systematically guiding the Members to honour their agricultural undertakings, providing a robust forum for intelligible interaction among delegations on agricultural policy matters, preparing for and feeding into the agriculture negotiations and, last but not least, in addressing or resolving disagreements before they escalate into disputes. This will also be an occasion to have a forward-looking brain-storming conversation on how the Committee, through its activities, could assist the Membership in dealing with contemporary challenges related to agriculture and agricultural trade.

The event will also be an occasion to thank all current and past WTO agriculture delegates, Committee Chairpersons, the Secretariat and the International Observer Organizations who have played a key role in nurturing the Committee since its establishment 27 years ago. I therefore request Members to please extend this invitation to their current and past agriculture delegates to join the celebratory event. Members are specifically encouraged to make contact with colleagues who have chaired the Committee in the past. I am enclosing a list of all past Chairpersons of the Committee along with their nationalities for your perusal. For logistical reasons, I will highly appreciate if Members could advise the Secretariat of the list of their participants at an early date, but no later than Friday, 4 March 2022 at diwakar.dixit@wto.org and agcd_mailbox@wto.org. The Secretariat will liaise with all nominated participants to facilitate their attendance and participation in the event.

Depending on the prevailing sanitary situation, the event will be organized in a hybrid or fully virtual format. The Secretariat and I are currently working on the details of the programme and the logistics for the event, which will be shared with the Membership in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Secretariat should you have any questions. In addition, and as indicated yesterday at the informal meeting of the CoA, please let us know if your delegation has any specific ideas or suggestions for the event no later than Friday, 11 February 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Marcos da Rosa Uranga
Chairperson
Committee on Agriculture