

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/W/191

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TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURE: JULY 1990

Statement by Egypt - 19 July 1990

The Egyptian delegation has expressed serious concern about the Chairman's text as presented in document MTN.GNG/NG5/W/170. The text as drafted has neglected the interests of net food-importing developing countries completely. The text is a step back on what those countries have fought for and acquired in the April 1989 text; it endangers also their possibilities to continue discussions with other participants in the future. For these reasons our delegation has asked the Chairman to change his text to reflect the actual state of play in the negotiations as regards NFIDCs.

Our concern is now less than before considering the fact that the "Chairman's text" is not any more a basis for negotiations; it is now a means that could be used for intensifying negotiations as indicated by the Chairman, and this how we really look at this text.

Our delegation would like to reiterate our views expressed earlier in the meeting of 12 July 1990, which can be summarized as follows.

1. We are thankful for paragraph 15 which stresses the agreement for a faster rate of reductions on tariffs and tariff equivalents ... for products of interest to developing countries.
2. We welcome this, but this applies to all developing countries and not only to NFIDCs.
3. We appreciate the effort for referring to food aid and concessional as stated in paragraph 23 yet:
 - (a) this paragraph does not relate it to offsetting the negative effects that may arise from the reform process;
 - (b) it refers merely "to ensure supplies of basic foodstuffs are available" while we would like to see that food and concessional sales should not be reduced, but maintained and even increased;

. / .

(c) we do not understand what is meant by appropriate terms and conditions.

4. Notwithstanding the obscure reference to market access and to food aid and concessional sales, this delegation, in co-operation with other NFIDCs, has advanced ideas comprising a package of modalities to offset the possible negative effects. We feel that the Chairman's text has neglected these points.

5. The text has also neglected the fact that almost all participants have recognized the problems to be faced by NFIDCs and some of them have advanced ideas to find solutions to their problems.

Mr. Chairman, we have taken note of your assurances that your text does not prevent continuing the dialogue with other participants to find concrete solutions to our problems.

As regards submitting country lists, we will recommend to our authorities to submit such lists. If they decide to do so, this would be without prejudice to accepting the notions of "AMS" or "tariffication" or to commit ourselves to any binding. It is clear that our measures affecting agriculture are part of our overall restrictions which are consistent with GATT provisions.

We would like to make it clear that our endeavours to make concessions will be subject to agreeing to find solutions to our concerns in agriculture.