

**Committee on Agriculture
Special Session****IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE FOR TROPICAL
AND ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS**Communication from the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

The following communication, dated 1 November 2007, is being circulated at the request of the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products.

The countries belonging to the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products express their concern at the scant progress made in complying with the long-standing commitment to achieve the fullest liberalization of tropical and alternative products, to be found in paragraph 43 of the Framework of July 2004. They also express their deep concern at the recent proposals seeking to restrict the opening of markets for tropical and alternative products.

The countries belonging to the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products have expressed support for the proposal on the coverage and treatment of tropical and alternative products submitted by the Cairns Group in JOB(07)/31. The list of products in this proposal substantially reduces the number of products in the indicative list of the Uruguay Round and reflects the current situation concerning the level of protection for these products. Annex I includes the list of the tropical and alternative products, as well as the treatment, as set out in JOB(07)/31.

The objective of liberalizing tropical products dates back to the Kennedy Round and compliance with it is a key element of the Doha Development Round that cannot be deferred.

The fullest liberalization of trade in tropical and alternative products constitutes an opportunity for developing countries to benefit from their comparative advantages and to increase their exports, as well as being a key factor in promoting development, combating poverty and the production of illicit crops.

It is an extremely serious matter that developed countries are using criteria based on their own tariff protection in order to select or identify tropical and alternative products with the intention of continuing to restrict trade in value-added tropical and alternative products. This position prevents compliance with the mandate in paragraph 43 of the July 2004 Framework, is contrary to the development dimension of the Doha Round and represents a step backwards in the negotiations.

It is of particular importance for developing countries to achieve results that promote their exports of value-added tropical and alternative products. Tropical products are subject to the highest levels of tariff escalation among agricultural products, which has a negative impact on value-added exports to markets in developed countries and condemns many developing countries to continue exporting primary products. Processed and semi-processed tropical products are the key to the development and industrialization of their economies.

Improving access to markets in developed countries for tropical and alternative products, as laid down in the mandate, cannot be made subject to longer periods of implementation by developed countries. The solution for the phasing-out of longstanding preferences should not affect other developing countries whose economies are highly dependent on exports of tropical and alternative products and which in some cases have higher levels of poverty and lower levels of development than countries to which such preferences are given.

In the Round, the objective of extending the preferential margins given to some should not take precedence over improving market access for exports by developing countries based on the most-favoured-nation principle.

Annex I

List of Tropical and Alternative Products

HS96	Description
060240	Roses, grafted or not
060290	Live plants, incl. their roots, and mushroom spawn
060310	Cut flowers and flower buds for bouquets, etc., fresh
060390	Cut flowers and flower buds for bouquets, dried, etc.
060491	Foliage, branches, for bouquets, etc. – fresh
060499	Foliage, branches, for bouquets, etc. – except fresh
070190	Potatoes, fresh or chilled except seed
070310	Onions and shallots
070960	Peppers (Capsicum, Pimenta) fresh or chilled
070990	Vegetables, fresh or chilled nes
071190	Other vegetables; mixtures of vegetables
071390	Other dried leguminous vegetables
071410	Manioc (cassava), fresh or dried
071420	Sweet potatoes
071490	Arrowroot, salep, etc. fresh or dried and sago pith
080111	Desiccated coconuts
080119	Other coconuts
080290	Nuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled
080300	Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried
080420	Figs, fresh or dried
080430	Pineapples, fresh or dried
080440	Avocados, fresh or dried
080450	Guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried
080510	Oranges, fresh or dried
080520	Mandarin, clementine & citrus hybrids, fresh or dried
080530	Lemons and limes, fresh or dried
080590	Other citrus fruit, fresh or dried
080711	Watermelons, fresh
080719	Melons, fresh
080720	Fresh pawpaws "papayas"
081090	Fresh tamarinds, passion fruit, carambola, pitahaya and other edible fruit
081190	Fruits and nuts (uncooked, steamed, boiled) frozen
081290	Fruit and nuts, provisionally preserved
081340	Other fruit
081350	Mixtures of nuts or dried fruits
081400	Peel of citrus fruit or melons
090112	Coffee, not roasted, decaffeinated
090121	Coffee, roasted, not decaffeinated
090122	Coffee, roasted, decaffeinated
090190	Coffee, other roasted
090210	Tea, green (unfermented) in packages < 3 kg
090412	Pepper, crushed or ground
090420	Capsicum or Pimenta, dried, crushed or ground
090700	Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems)
091010	Ginger
100610	Rice in the husk (paddy or rough)

HS96	Description
100620	Husked (brown) rice
100630	Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed
100640	Broken rice
110230	Rice flour
110620	Flour, meal and powder of sago or of roots or tubers of heading 07.14
110630	Flour, meal and powder of the dried leguminous vegetables
110814	Manioc (cassava) starch
120210	Ground-nuts in shell, not roasted or cooked
120220	Ground-nuts, shelled, whether or not broken
120890	Other flours and meals of oil seeds or oleaginous fruits
121190	Plants & parts, pharmacy, perfume, insecticide use nes
121210	Locust beans, locust seeds
121299	Vegetable products nes for human consumption
130219	Vegetable saps and extracts nes
140190	Other vegetable materials
150710	Crude soya-bean oil, and its fractions
150790	Other soya-bean oil, and its fractions
150810	Crude ground nut oil
151110	Palm oil, crude
151190	Palm oil or fractions simply refined
151211	Crude sunflower-seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof
151219	Other sunflower-seed or safflower oil and fractions thereof
151311	Crude coconut (copra) oil and its fractions
151319	Other coconut (copra) oil and its fractions
151321	Crude palm kernel or babassu oil
151329	Palm kernel or babassu oil and fractions thereof, other
151410	Low erucic acid rape or colza oil, crude
151490	Low erucic acid rape or colza oil, other
151530	Castor oil and its fractions
151550	Sesame oil or fractions not chemically modified
151620	Veg fats, oils or fractions hydrogenated, esterified
151710	Margarine, excluding liquid margarine
152190	Beeswax, other insect waxes and spermaceti
170111	Raw sugar, cane
170191	Containing added flavouring or colouring matter
170199	Refined sugar, in solid form, nes, pure sucrose
170310	Cane molasses
180310	Cocoa paste, not defatted
180320	Cocoa paste, wholly or partly defatted
180400	Cocoa butter, fat, oil
180500	Cocoa powder, unsweetened
180610	Cocoa powder, sweetened
180620 ¹	Chocolate and other food preps containing cocoa > 2 kg
180631	Chocolate, cocoa preps, block, slab, bar, filled, > 2kg
180632	Chocolate, cocoa prep, block/slab/bar, not filled, > 2kg
180690 ²	Chocolate/cocoa food preparations
200190	Veg, fruit, nuts nes prepared or preserved by vinegar
200410	Potatoes, prepared, frozen

¹ Excluding more disaggregated lines which have a majority of their ingredients which are not tropical or alternative products.

² Excluding more disaggregated lines which have a majority of their ingredients which are not tropical or alternative products.

HS96	Description
200520	Potatoes, prepared or preserved, not frozen/vinegar
200590	Veg nes, mixes, prepared/preserved, not frozen/vinegar
200600	Fruits, nuts, fruit-peel, etc. preserved by sugar
200710	Homogenized jams, jellies, etc.
200791	Citrus based jams jellies marmalade, etc.
200799	Jams, fruit jellies, purees and pastes, except citrus
200811	Ground-nuts otherwise prepared or preserved
200819	Nuts, seeds & mixes, otherwise prepared or preserved
200820	Pineapples, otherwise prepared or preserved
200830	Citrus fruits, otherwise prepared or preserved
200870	Peaches, otherwise prepared or preserved
200891	Palm hearts, otherwise prepared or preserved
200892	Fruit mixtures, otherwise prepared or preserved
200899	Fruit, edible plants nes otherwise prepared/preserved
200911	Orange juice, frozen, not fermented or spirited
200919	Orange juice, not fermented, spirited, or frozen
200920	Grapefruit juice, not fermented or spirited
200930	Citrus juice nes (one fruit) not fermented or spirited
200940	Pineapple juice, not fermented or spirited
200980	Single fruit, veg juice nes, not fermented or spirited
200990	Mixtures of juices not fermented or spirited
210111	Coffee extracts, essence
210112	Coffee prep. of extracts
210120	Tea and mate extracts, essences and concentrates
210390	Sauces nes, mixed condiments, mixed seasoning
220720	Ethyl alcohol
220840	Rum
230610	Oil-cake and other solid residues, of cotton seeds
230660	Of palm nuts or kernels
240110	Tobacco, not stemmed/stripped
240120	Tobacco, partly or wholly stemmed/stripped
240130	Tobacco refuse
240210	Cigars, cheroots and cigarillos, containing tobacco
240220	Cigarettes containing tobacco
240290	Cigars, cheroots, cigarettes, with tobacco substitutes
240310	Smoking tobacco, whether or not containing tobacco substitutes
240391	"Homogenized" or "reconstituted" tobacco
240399	Other manufactured tobacco
330112	Essential oils of orange
330113	Essential oils of lemon

List of Tropical and Alternative Products

Developed Countries		
Band	Tariff thresholds	Linear cuts by tariff line
1	$0 \leq 25\%$	100%
2	$> 25\%$	85%