



**G-33 Coordinator Statement
General Council Meeting
14 October 2008**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will be speaking on behalf of the Group of 33.

The G-33 thanks and appreciates the Director General for his report to this General Council meeting with regard to the objectives and course ahead of the Doha Development Round of negotiations. In addition to the Group's Statement today, I would also like to request that the Group's Statement delivered during Friday's Informal TNC Meeting be also put in record as part of today's General Council meeting's report.

Mr. Chairman,

The G-33 is encouraged that the agriculture multilateral process has already been re-started. The Group reassures our support to the Chair led multilateral process. We will be engaged and work constructively to help find a compromise, but balanced and fair solution to the unresolved issues and reaffirm our commitment to work together with all WTO Members.

The G-33's objective is clear. Developing countries need to provide the political and the real level of comfort for millions of small, poor and vulnerable farmers, their livelihood security as well as food security of the country. The mandates are also clear in the 2004 July Framework and 2005 Hong Kong Declaration.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, a simple, operational, effective and meaningful development instrument of Special Products (SPs) and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM), as an integral part of Special and Differential Treatment - shall be established.

In doing so, the G-33 supports the view and intention that continued negotiations be based on the Rev. 3 Agriculture Draft Text. The structure and architectures are of a good basis for further negotiations. It is indeed the contents which need to be further discussed and agreed. The Group would also stress that there are various elements not only on SSM - but also in issues such as Tariff Simplification, Sensitive Products, TRQ Creation, Green Box and especially cotton - which need to be further discussed.

The G-33 expects that all issues and elements must be further dealt with and it is a misperception that apart from paragraphs 134 to 136, all other elements of SSM have been settled or agreed, as the way they are expressed in the Rev. 3 Draft Text.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

The G-33 reiterates that while we stand ready to be engaging constructively in the negotiations ahead, the Group continues to call for significant movements and flexibilities by other Members on all outstanding issues, including on SPs and SSM. It is only by these kinds of constructive engagements, we would all be successful in completing our tasks and challenges by the end of this year. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.