



First Draft - 26 June 2008

**G-33 Statement  
Informal TNC Friday,  
27 June 2008**

Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the G-33, I take the floor to thank you, Director General in your capacity as Chair of the TNC, for your reflections - as well as the efforts you have undertaken to steer the negotiation process and arrive at this crucial phase of these negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, With the proposed course of action that you have set out today, the Doha Round of negotiations enters its moment of truth in the next couple of weeks. In light of the decisive, “watershed” moment, we all have to first ask ourselves - whether we are indeed ready to transcend to the next level.

Neither the Agriculture, nor the NAMA draft texts are stabilized. Severe imbalances remained within the pillars and between the 3 (three) pillars in agriculture. This would include among the Agriculture and NAMA as well as between the huge flexibilities for developed countries and those for developing countries in these areas.

The G-33 has always been supportive of transparency, inclusiveness and the bottom up approach in the negotiations. We view that the process of engaging all members is the most favorable approach to

ensuring a truly multilateral result. Accordingly, the Group has always remained ready to engage in a dialogue which is constructive in its process and substance. We are of the firm belief that all outstanding issues in agriculture and all other aspects of negotiations in the single undertaking, would have to be dealt with in a balanced manner.

This - if any successful outcome of the proposed Ministerial is to be achieved. It is absolutely critical towards creating the right conditions for the horizontal and the Ministerial process so as to impart confidence among developing Members, that their development interests will not be subverted in any manner.

The G-33 reiterates that the Group is committed to ensuring that the final outcome does not put at risk the livelihoods of the vulnerable and disadvantaged section of the population of its Members.

Mr. Chairman, It is clear that if we are to successfully conclude the DDA negotiations, the necessary groundwork must be finalized during the next couple of weeks. The G-33 remains committed with a conclusion of the Doha Development Round, but a successful one. To succeed, it will only be possible if most of the several pending issues in Agriculture and NAMA are agreed before the final stage - with the participation of all Members. In other words, it shall always

be substance and members' driven and not by artificial datelines on political considerations.

Any further revised draft texts issued, shall be followed by ample and reasonable time for Capitals' consideration. Further discussions shall be conducted with the participation of the entire membership. Any outcome of a Ministerial process shall follow the same procedure of enough time for Capitals to take informed decisions.

Mr. Chairman, For the two important issues of SPs and SSM, the G-33 has, over the course of the negotiations, clearly outlined the basic ingredients for a workable architecture. The Group has reiterated the importance of this issue on countless occasions.

The deepening global food crisis has clearly demonstrated that indeed the principle of food security, livelihood security and rural development are relevant and must indeed be a part of the equation in discussing the optimal solutions to this Development Round.

However, apparently our calls have been once again neglected. We have yet to see genuine movements and flexibilities from our negotiating partners. Instead, the G-33 is still faced with a situation in which these two issues are labelled "hot spot" issues that requires further negotiations, with unclear prospects.

From the point of view of the G-33, this would mean that all elements of SPs and SSM that has been conveyed by the Group over the years - must be incorporated in the next revised text for submission to Ministers. Consequently, it shall be part of a final outcome.

Any solution or outcome that does not include the treatment of SPs with zero cuts and the remedies for SSM beyond the pre-Doha Bound tariff rates, coupled with more flexible triggers than the SSG - will not be acceptable to the Group under any circumstances. The development needs of G-33 Members must be appreciated and that the issue of developing countries flexibilities is not part of the problem. It is, indeed, part of the solution.

The interest and needs of developing Members should rightly be placed at the heart of the Round, so that the development dimensions of the Doha Round is appropriately delivered.

Having said that, let me assure you, Mr. Chairman - the G-33 is committed to engage in intensive consultations and discussions in the next few days or weeks.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.