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1 ARTICLE 16 OF THE AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

1.1 Text of Article 16

Article 16

Least - Developed and Net Food- Importing Developing Countries

1. Developed country Members shall take such action as is provided for within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least - Developed and Net Food- Importing Developing Countries.

2.

(ii) that developed country WTO Members continue to give full consideration in the context of their aid programmes to requests for the provision of technical and financial assistance to least-developed and net food-importing developing countries to improve their agricultural productivity and infrastructure;

(iii) that the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision, whereby Ministers agreed to ensure that any agreement relating to agricultural export credits makes appropriate provision for differential treatment in favour of least-developed and net food-importing developing countries, be taken fully into account in the agreement to be negotiated on agricultural export credits;

(iv) that WTO Members, in their individual capacity as members of relevant international financial institutions, take appropriate steps to encourage the institutions concerned, through their respective governing bodies, to further consider the scope for establishing new facilities or enhancing existing facilities for developing countries experiencing Uruguay Round-related difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs. ²

1.4 Recommendations approved at the Doha Ministerial Conference

2. The issue of improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the NFIDC Decision was also considered in the context of the work on implementation-related issues conducted in the Committee on Agriculture on the instructions of the General Council. ³ In advance of the Doha

productivity and infrastructure in these countries under existing facilities and programmes, as well as under such facilities and programmes as may be introduced.

III. Financing Normal Levels of Commercial Imports of Basic Foodstuffs
(paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Decision)

(a) that the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision, which provide for differential treatment in favour of least-developed and WTO net food-importing developing countries, shall be taken fully into account in any agreement to be negotiated on disciplines on agricultural export credits pursuant to Article 10.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture;

(b) that an inter-agency panel of financial and commodity experts be established, with the requested participation of the World Bank, the IMF, the FAO, the International Grains Council and the UNCTAD, to explore ways and means for improving access by least-developed and WTO net food-importing developing countries to multilateral programs and facilities to assist with short term difficulties in financing normal levels of commercial imports of basic foodstuffs, as well as the concept and feasibility of the proposal for the establishment of a revolving fund in G/AG/W/49 and Add.1 and Corr.1. The detailed terms of reference, drawing on the Marrakesh NFIDC Decision, should be submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the WTO Committee on Agriculture, following consultations with Members, to the General Council for approval by not later than 31 December 2001. The inter-agency panel shall submit its recommendations to the General Council by not later than 30 June 2002." ⁴

3. The Doha Ministerial Conference took note of and approved these recommendations. ⁵

1.4.1 International food aid

4. With regard to the recommendation " that early action be taken within the framework of the Food Aid Convention 1999 (which unless extended, with or without a decision regarding its

(d) that strategies of commodity price risk management from the perspective of developing country food importers be addressed by the Commodity Price Risk Management Group of the World Bank." ¹¹

8. At its meeting on 15 October 2002 the General Council approved these four recommendations with the amendments proposed by the Committee on Agriculture:

"[W]ith regard to the recommendations in Paragraphs 168 (a), (c) and (d), that the General Council authorize him, as Chairman [of the General Council], to write to the IMF, World Bank and the Integrated Framework Agencies requesting them to review the Panel report as it related to the issue within their competence. Finally, with regard to the recommendation in Paragraph 168 (b), he proposed that the General Council approve to the recommendation of

on the understanding that "being listed would not as such confer automatic benefits since, under the mechanisms covered by the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision, donors and the institutions concerned would have a role to play".¹⁶

13. The agreed criteria provided that the following countries would be eligible for the list:

"a) Least developed countries as recognized by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

b) Any developing country Member of the WTO which was a net importer of basic foodstuffs in any three years of the most recent five -year period for which data are available and which notifies the Committee of its decision to be listed as a Net Food - Importing Developing Country for the purpose of the decision."¹⁷

14. With Samoa's addition to the list, agreed upon at the 22 -23 September 2020 meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, the most recent list includes the least -developed countries as recognized by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, plus 3 2 other Members.¹⁸

1.6.3 Notification requirements

15. For notification requirements and formats concerning the follow -

