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**1 ARTICLE 20 OF THE AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE**

**1.1 Text of Article 20**

**Article 20**

Recognizing that the long-term objective of substantial progressive reductions in support and protection resulting in fundamental reform is an ongoing process, Members agree that negotiations for continuing the process will be initiated one year before the end of the implementation period, taking into account:

- (a) the experience to that date from implementing the reduction commitments;
- (b) the effects of the reduction commitments on world trade in agriculture;
- (c) non-trade concerns, special and differential treatment to developing country Members, and the objective to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system, and the other objectives and concerns mentioned in the preamble to this Agreement; and
- (d) what further commitments are necessary to achieve the above mentioned long-term objectives.

**1.2 Decision of the Singapore Ministerial Conference**

1. The Singapore Ministerial Conference held in December 1996 decided as follows:

"Bearing in mind that an important aspect of WTO activities is a continuous overseeing of the implementation of various agreements, a periodic examination and updating of the WTO Work Programme is a key to enable the WTO to fulfil its objectives. In this context, we endorse the reports of issues involved and identify their interests before undertaking the agreed negotiations and reviews. We agree that: the time frames established in the Agreements will be respected in each case."

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<sup>1</sup> [WT/MIN\(96\)/DEC](#), para. 19.

### 1.3 Decision to launch negotiations on agriculture

2. At its meeting of 7 and 8 February 2000, the General Council decided to launch a new negotiating round on agriculture, stating as follows:

"[U]nder Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, Members had agreed that negotiations for continuing the reform process would be initiated one year before the end of the implementation period, i.e. 1 January 2000. [...] However, a number of procedural matters remained to be settled before the work could start in practice. In this regard, and in the light of wide and intensive consultations with and among Members on the structure of the negotiations, [the Chairman] proposed that the negotiations be conducted in the Committee on Agriculture meeting in Special Sessions. Progress in the negotiations would be reported

"1. The General Council reaffirms the Ministerial Declarations and Decisions adopted at Doha



agreed to eliminate them immediately as a general rule, with delayed implementation under certain conditions for a limited number of products. Developing country Members had longer implementation periods, including the flexibility under Article 9.4 of the Agreement on Agriculture. The Decision also contained disciplines, in particular on maximum repayment terms, on export credits, export credit guarantees, and insurance programmes. Members also agreed to ensure that agricultural exporting state trading enterprises did not operate in a manner that would circumvent the other provisions of the decision. On food aid, the Decision included disciplines aimed at minimizing the risk of commercial displacement and more specifically ensuring that food aid did not negatively affect

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### **1.8 Geneva Ministerial Conference outcomes on agriculture**

22. Ministers adopted at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference held in Geneva in June 2022 a declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity, the first such declaration on this topic adopted by trade ministers at the WTO.<sup>33</sup>

23. The Ministers committed to facilitate trade and improve the functioning and long-term resilience of global markets for food and agriculture, including agriculture production inputs, not to impose export prohibitions or restrictions in a manner inconsistent with relevant WTO provisions, and ensure that any emergency measures introduced to address food security concerns minimize trade distortions as far as possible, among other.

24. The Ministers agreed to a work programme under the auspices of the Committee on Agriculture to examine how the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries could be made more effective and operational pursuant to Article 16 of the Agreement on Agriculture.

25. The Declaration also reaffirms the importance of promptly sharing information to ensure markets function well and to mitigate against volatility, including by complying with WTO notification commitments and by actively participating in other relevant mechanisms for information exchange.

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