

**MARKET ACCESS FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Treatment of Non-Reciprocal Preferences

*Communication from Colombia*

The following communication, dated 20 June 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

**Background**

Paragraph 20 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration states that "[a]s a supplement to paragraph 16 of the NAMA Framework, we recognize the challenges that may be faced by non-reciprocal preference beneficiary Members as a consequence of the MFN liberalization that will result from these negotiations. We instruct the Negotiating Group to intensify work on the assessment of the scope of the problem with a view to finding possible solutions."

Regarding the treatment of non-reciprocal preference beneficiaries, Colombia has submitted that:

- The Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration does not provide for a trade solution.
- The required compensation should be obtained through Aid for Trade in accordance with paragraph 57 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.
- The products covered by non-reciprocal preferences correspond to the exportable supply of many developing countries such as Colombia.
- A trade solution for non-reciprocal preference beneficiaries would result in special and differential treatment for the developed countries granting such preferences.

In spite of these considerations, we have noted a preference on the part of various Members for providing non-reciprocal preference beneficiaries with a trade solution. Bearing this in mind, and with a view to finding a solution suitable to the different parties, Colombia would like to make the following proposal:

**Proposal**

If the trade solution for non-reciprocal preference beneficiaries is longer implementation periods in the Members granting such preferences, the developing Members affected by that trade

solution shall have X additional years for implementing the formula cuts in the same tariff lines.

The affected developing Members in question are those that export under these tariff lines at least X per cent to the market of the Member granting the non-reciprocal preferences.

---