

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Rules

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STATEMENT ON "ZEROING" IN THE ANTI-DUMPING NEGOTIATIONS

Statement of Brazil; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia;
Japan; Korea, Rep. of; Mexico; Norway; Pakistan; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland;
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; and Thailand

Revision

The Delegations of Brazil; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Korea, Rep. of; Mexico; Norway; Pakistan; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; and Thailand made this statement on 7 December 2007 concerning the Rules Chair's first draft text (TN/RL/W/213), in particular on the issue of "zeroing". This is without prejudice to the strong views the Delegations may have on other parts of the text.

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1. We thank the Rules Chair for his efforts to present this first draft text (TN/RL/W/213). The mandate for Rules calls for clarifying and improving disciplines under the Anti-Dumping Agreement. Clarified and improved disciplines do not imply increased opportunities for imposing barriers to trade.
 2. The Chair's text must serve the spirit of the Doha Development Agenda, which we understand to be to increase trade flows, enhance predictability, and provide more transparency. The text must also represent the actual discussions which took place within the Negotiating Group. The vast majority of the proposals made by the co-sponsors of this statement have been neglected. We are obliged to say that the Chair's text lacks balance.
 3. The Chair's text, as it now stands, permits the practice of zeroing, thus running counter to the above. Zeroing is a biased and partial method for calculating the margin of dumping and inflates anti-dumping duties. If the use of such practice prevails in the future, it could nullify the results of trade liberalization efforts. In Marrakesh, Ministers expressed their determination to resist protectionist pressure of all kinds. They believed that trade liberalization and strengthened rules achieved in the Uruguay Round would lead to a progressively more open world trading environment. We call upon all Members to ensure that the Multilateral Trading System is not undermined through zeroing.
 4. We, along with others, will continue to make our points in the Negotiating Group. When the Chair's text is revised, we expect it to reflect to a much larger extent the spirit of the DDA and the reality of the discussions.
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