

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TN/MA/W/6
5 August 2002

(02-4309)

Negotiating Group on Market Access

Original: English

MARKET ACCESS FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Contribution Paper from Korea

The following communication was submitted by Korea at the Meeting of the Negotiating Group on 2 August 2002 with the request that it be circulated.

Preface

1. The history of the international trading system illustrates that negotiations on reducing or eliminating tariffs and non-tariffs are integral to continuous trade liberalization. Although such barriers have been substantially eradicated to date, market access yet remains a paramount concern to all WTO Members.

2. Korea believes that market access negotiations should be effectively carried out within the scheduled time, not only for a successful close of the DDA negotiations, but more importantly for further development of global trade. Also, lower trade barriers have by and large rendered economic benefits to all Members via enhanced competition, increased economic efficiency, and economic growth. To this end, Korea anticipates an active participation of all WTO Members in these negotiations.

Modalities

3. In discussing the modalities for the negotiations, *inter alia*, preceding market access negotiations, needs and interests of developing countries, and the anticipated complexities of the negotiations should be taken into consideration. It would also not prove facile to carry out request-offer approaches within the proposed time owing to the large number of WTO Members. Hence, in order to bring about the greatest comprehensive tariff reduction for all Members, Korea prefers pursuing a formula approach, with limited use of the request-offer approach, when necessary.

4. The agreed modalities in the Market Access Negotiating Group should deal with the reduction and elimination of both tariffs, including tariff peaks, high tariffs and tariffs escalation, and non-tariff barriers as mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. In this respect, with the view to effectively conducting the negotiations, at the outset, the definitions of the terms tariff peak, high tariff and tariffs escalation should be clarified. We have also a great concern about tariff peaks or high tariffs which are levied by way of non-*ad valorem* duties.

Environmental Goods

5. We welcome the decision of the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) that the Non-Agricultural Market Access Negotiation Group should conduct negotiations on environmental goods. Cognizant that the trade initiative to eliminate or reduce barriers to trade in

./.

environmental goods would foster the development of environment industry world-wide, Korea notes the need for reinforced cooperation with the CT as well as among Members.

Non-Tariff Barriers

6. As non-tariff barriers (NTBs) exist in various forms and the raison d'être of its existence are unconventional, effective ways to reducing or phasing out such barriers as stated in the Ministerial Declaration should be addressed. To this end, different categories of non-tariff measures should be clearly defined and listed up, while ways to identify individual non-trade barriers belonging to such categories should be agreed on at the outset of the negotiations.

Special and Differential Treatment

7. Korea acknowledges the special needs and interests of the developing and least-developed countries, not to mention the necessity for further studies and capacity-building measures to assist least-developed countries. Korea is also mindful of the mandate that the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers shall be particularly aimed at products of export interest to developing countries. In this regard, an active participation of all Members is essential to duly reflect the market access interests of developing countries in the negotiations.

Tariffs and Trade Data

8. Prior to embarking on formal negotiations, Members should take requisite steps so that data on their current market conditions – applied and bound tariffs and recent trade statistics – are accessible to other Members. As a starting-point, Korea proposes that each Member submit updated data to the Integrated Database (IDB). In addition, Korea encourages the WTO Secretariat to continuously collect and update the IDB by using the available software tools.
