

**NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS
FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Communication from Bolivia

The following communication, dated 19 February 2003, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia.

1. During the Doha Ministerial Conference, Bolivia reaffirmed its pledge to contribute to greater trade liberalization and supported the launch of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations.
2. Accordingly, Bolivia is submitting to Members for consideration its views on the modalities and other elements that should be considered in the negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products.

Modalities

3. With regard to the modalities for tariff reduction, Bolivia would support application of the Swiss formula, in accordance with Members' level of development, using bound tariffs as the basis of calculation.
4. For the purpose of eliminating tariffs, Bolivia supports the zero-for-zero approach, to be applied only by developed countries, as in the eighth round of negotiations.
5. The base year for the negotiation should be 2000, considering that Members would have already implemented their binding commitments.

Environmental goods

6. In order to deal appropriately with environmental goods, efforts to classify and define them are required; to that end, the WTO Secretariat should prepare a working paper that would be elaborated on by Members. At the same time, the material already prepared in the framework of APEC and OECD could serve as reference documents for the work that is being undertaken, but the basic working papers must be those prepared by the WTO Secretariat, bearing in mind that neither of those international bodies has a membership as broad as that of the WTO.
7. Furthermore, Bolivia is aware of the need for a comprehensive and up-to-date Integrated Data Base (IDB), which is why it is necessary for Members to meet their commitment to update the IDB for the years 2000 and 2001, and the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database, showing the applied tariffs and bindings, should be distributed to Members.

8. Another aspect we consider relevant to compliance with the WTO principle of allowing greater participation by developing, and particularly least-developed countries, is capacity-building. The Members of WTO should examine the best possible mechanisms for cooperation and technical assistance with a view to facilitating the effective participation of developing countries. In this connection, Bolivia requests technical assistance for the operation of the Integrated Data Base.

9. Furthermore, as was agreed at Doha, these negotiations must take into account the special needs and interests of developing and least-developed countries, including through less than full reciprocity in the commitments.

10. Lastly, we consider that this Negotiating Group should not go beyond the outcomes achieved in the Negotiating Group on Agriculture, in order to strike a balance in the tariffs applied to industrial and agricultural products. In this way, the prevalent discrimination in the treatment of these two sectors will be eliminated.
