

We acknowledge the uniqueness of agriculture. Concerns such as unemployment and food security must be recognized. But it is essential that we accept collective responsibility and commit ourselves collectively to initiate the reform that sheer common sense and financial prudence dictate. The risks of further delay will be enormous.

Both interim and long-term measures are required. For the long-term agricultural trade problems must be resolved in the MTN. If we are unable to deal with agricultural reform, the Uruguay Round will be considered a failure.

As an interim measure, Canada has proposed to the OECD a set of principles for collective action to reduce distortions in agricultural trade. These principles build on the excellent work which the OECD has done and are consistent with the approach to long term reform of agriculture envisaged in the Punta del Este Declaration. They have been conveyed to OECD members and have received wide support.

The draft communique prepared by the Secretary-General is an acceptable basis for reaching agreement on the communiqué. But let me be clear. It is already communiqué language. It is fully satisfactory to no delegation. From our perspective it represents a dilution from our principles. Efforts to seek major changes in the Secretary-General's skillful effort to reflect differences will lead us all back to original positions and away from the practical compromise we need.

The Ministerial Communiqué should reflect a real commitment to deal with these problems and we must all agree to respect it.