

(d) Ministers recognize that:

- special and differential treatment to developing countries is an integral element of the negotiations in accordance with governing principles of negotiations as elaborated in section B of Part 1 of the Punta del Este Declaration, in particular parts IV-VII;
- government measures to encourage agricultural and rural development are an integral part of the development programmes of developing countries. Such measures may involve direct or indirect government support.

B. Short-term elements

(a) Ministers are invited to agree that during the next two years:

- participants undertake to implement a freeze on overall support and protection provided to their agricultural sectors at the levels prevailing in [] and to refrain from initiating new programmes that would undermine this commitment;
- to realize the long-term objective, as a first step, to reduce overall support and protection by (x) per cent by 1990;
- special attention should be given to the possible negative effects of short-term measures on net food-importing developing countries;
- an agreement on the terms and conditions of the freeze and reduction must be reached not later than 31 March 1989, including an agreement on measures coverage, commodity coverage, reference price.

(b) Basic options

Ministers should be invited to decide:

- whether a freeze and reduction should be expressed in terms of an aggregate measurement of support or in terms of specific policies and measures or a combination thereof;
- whether developing countries should be exempted from the short-term measures.