

for liberalizing trade in agriculture and bringing all measures affecting import access and export competition under strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines.

There is a broad measure of consensus that agricultural policies should be more responsive to international market signals in order to meet the objective of liberalization of international trade and that support and protection should be progressively reduced and provided in a less trade distorting manner.

Ministers should accordingly be invited to endorse a framework approach comprising the following interrelated long- and short-term elements and arrangements on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.

A. Long-term elements

Ministers should be invited to agree that the long-term objective of the agricultural negotiations is to establish the basis of a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system and that a reform process should be initiated through the negotiation of commitments on support and protection and through the establishment of a strengthened GATT régime.

Basic options

(a) Ministers should be invited to decide:

- whether the ultimate goal should be the elimination or the substantial reduction of trade-distortive support and protection;
- whether this reduction or elimination should be realized through negotiations on specific policies and measures or through the negotiation of commitments on an aggregate measurement of support, the terms of which would have to be negotiated - or through a combination of these approaches.

Guidelines for reform

(b) Subject to such decisions as may be made under (a) above, Ministers should establish guidelines for a reform programme of concerted and progressive reduction/elimination in agricultural support and guidelines for a strengthened GATT régime for agriculture based on new and amended rules and disciplines: