

- a prohibition on the introduction or continued use of all measures not explicitly provided for in the GATT, including non-tariff barriers and other measures such as variable import levies and minimum import prices;
- the elimination of all provisions for exceptional treatment whether maintained under waivers, protocols of accession, or other derogations and exceptions;
- a binding of all tariffs on agricultural products at low levels or zero;
- phased elimination of voluntary restraint arrangements, consistent with the Punta del Este rollback commitment.

Non Tariff Measures

12. Concurrently with action to reduce international support measures and phase out export subsidies, the Cairns Group favours the conversion to tariffs of other border measures, including variable import levies, minimum import prices and measures of similar effect, which will introduce more transparency in the reform process. The initial tariff equivalents would be subject to a maximum ad valorem level to be agreed and would be reduced by the end of the reform process to bound, low, ad valorem levels and accompanied by the progressive expansion of tariff quota levels where these are used as a transition mechanism. The objective of the negotiation is to reduce substantially protection and correct and prevent restrictions and distortions.

13. Liberalization would be achieved by:

- (a) progressive reduction of the initial tariff equivalents to final bound rates according to an agreed formula(ae) with a harmonising effect. The formula(ae) reductions could be supplemented by request/offer negotiations;
- (b) and, where necessary, the creation and/or progressive expansion of global tariff quotas, which would be removed when the final bound rates are implemented.