

2. Reform Process Commitments

40. In order to enable developing countries to make necessary and gradual adjustment towards more market responsive agriculture consistent with their individual trade, financial and development needs, it is indispensable that they be provided with necessary flexibilities in designing their programs and implementation schedules. The modalities for the application of the differential treatment principle at this particular stage will be structured around the following terms:

(1) Longer Timeframe

The timeframe for implementation and completion of the reform commitments for developing countries must be extended for a certain period to be agreed upon with a view to allowing a gradual adjustment in their agriculture sectors and avoiding possible disruptive effects in the reform process. Such an extended timeframe could be readjusted, on a case by case basis according to multilateral procedures to be defined, as certain genuinely difficult circumstances arise.

(2) Differential Treatment in the Application of Commitments

The principle of differential and more favourable treatment will be reflected in the reform commitments both in the areas of import access and internal support.

(a) Import Access

The depths of cuts in import access barriers for developing countries will be lower than the generally agreed target.

For products of priority export interest to developing countries, the negotiations should seek to provide reductions in trade barriers and internal support policies by developed countries on an accelerated basis.