

- be specific both as to policies and products and also as to the time by which obligations must be fulfilled;
- ensure that reductions in import access barriers are paralleled by reductions in export subsidies and internal support measures;
- involve steps for each product for each year of the liberalisation period which would be bound.

The final outcome of the liberalisation will be in the form of strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines, with product-specific bindings on the basis of agreed criteria including bound tariffs and disciplines on identifiable measures of domestic support.

10. The Cairns Group reiterates its established position that commitments by countries to change trade distorting policies must be the primary vehicle for reform. An appropriate AMS approach would complement and assist these policy changes. It could be used to

- provide a measure of the support levels provided by national agricultural policies in a broadly comparable way, so as to establish points of departure for substantial reductions in support
- gauge commitments to annual reductions in support
- monitor progress towards attaining negotiated targets.

The commitments proposed in this paper to phase-out or reduce trade distorting support and protection measures would act to reduce AMS levels.

REFORM ELEMENTS

I. IMPORT ACCESS

(a) Reform Process

11. The objective is to achieve the liberalisation of markets through an access package involving: