

exempted from the reform process under certain prescribed and tightly circumscribed conditions. Ministers should agree that:

- (i) the extent to which, and the conditions under which, certain measures will be exempted from the reform process will be defined;
- (ii) in particular, this will include measures decoupled from production and marketing in recognition of the benefits to all participants of re-orienting agricultural support in non-trade distorting directions.

### III TRANSITION TO THE LONG-TERM

9. As an integral part of an agreement leading to liberalization, there must be firm political commitments to undertake consistent and comprehensive steps to attain this goal

- (i) first, this involves concerted reductions in trade distorting support and protection, based on the use of an aggregate measure as envisaged in almost all negotiating proposals;
- (ii) second, it requires a commitment to develop complementary transitional rules.

#### Systematic Reduction of Aggregate Support

10. Ministers should agree:

- (i) to negotiate target annual reductions in aggregate support both across agricultural sectors and at the specific commodity level; and
- (ii) to negotiate a set of minimum annual adjustments to specific policy parameters.

11. An aggregate measure should be used as a unit of account or yardstick to gauge the value of commitments to annual reductions. The Cairns Group does not believe that levels of the aggregate measure should be subject to GATT binding.