



**G-33 Ministerial Press Statement
Davos, 26 January 2007**

1. The G33 Ministers present in Davos met on 26 January 2007 to evaluate the current developments in the Doha Round negotiations and to see how the Group can further contribute to a successful outcome that specifically places the concerns of the world's small, vulnerable and poor farmers across all continents at the forefront of all concerns.
2. Ministers noted some recent developments that foreshadow strengthening of the political will to bridge the divergences among Members on the modalities concerning effective reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and improvements in agricultural market access. They urged that these developments be brought into the multilateral process as soon as possible. The onus of movement lies squarely on the developed countries as this Round is premised on development. Ministers expressed their readiness to further take the necessary decisions to achieve a fair and balanced outcome in agriculture in a transparent, bottom up approach and inclusive manner.
3. G-33 Ministers on their part emphasised the need to secure early convergence on the critical development instruments of Special Products (SPs) and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) without subverting the development goals and aspirations of the vast bulk of small, poor and vulnerable producers of developing countries. Noting further that the development imperatives of the Doha Round are centred in the crucial role that agriculture plays in the economic and social fabric of the developing countries, Ministers emphasised that it was vital to ensure that the modalities for SPs and the SSM are designed to effectively address their food security, livelihood security and rural development needs, while at the same time ensuring predictability and transparency.
4. Ministers reiterated that the Group's comprehensive and constructive contributions on modalities, with full legal drafts, on SPs and SSM are fully consistent with, and respect the integrity of, the Doha and Hong Kong Ministerial Declarations, and the General Council Decision of 1st August 2004.
5. Ministers particularly noted that the G-33 proposals embody within them deeply-considered solutions to the heterogeneous interests of WTO Members. Studies show that there is no close relationship between agricultural imports and applied tariff rates. Moreover, low tariffs do not cause imports to rise when income levels are very low. On the contrary, the main drivers of agricultural imports in developing countries are income levels and variations in domestic harvests, not tariff levels. In this context, they underscored that developing countries need time and policy space to improve their poor farmers' productivity and incomes, and to curtail the risk of dislocation from agriculture from unmanageable agricultural trade liberalisation.
6. The G-33 remains committed to engage constructively with all WTO Members to secure their development concerns in the Doha outcomes, while specifically addressing the livelihood concerns of small, poor and vulnerable farmers worldwide.