

Negotiating Group on Market Access

MARKET ACCESS FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Some elements towards a possible middle ground solution in NAMA

*Communication from Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica;
Hong Kong, China; Mexico; Peru; Singapore and Thailand*

1. The above Members consider that, five and a half years into the DDA negotiations, the time has come for all WTO members to show the flexibility needed to conclude the negotiations by early 2008 at the latest. The losses and missed gains associated with a failure or freezing of the DDA far outweigh the costs of a less-than-perfect agreement.

2. In the specific context of NAMA, concrete shows of flexibility have been scarce even at this late stage of the negotiations. Against this background, we are of the view that a middle ground concerning the Swiss formula could be found around the following parameters:

- Architecture: The architecture created by Annex B of the July 2004 Framework and by the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration must be respected.
- Coefficients of the Swiss formula: The developed country coefficient would be less than 10. The developing country coefficient would be between the upper teens and the low twenties.
- Paragraph 8 flexibilities: The brackets around the current figures in paragraph 8 would be removed.
- Non-linear mark-up for unbound tariffs: This would be between 20 and 30 percentage points.

3. The elements listed above do not represent the preferred outcomes of any of the co-sponsors of this document, and are without prejudice to the positions of the co-sponsors on the linkages between the above elements and other topics crucial to the outcome of the NAMA negotiations. This proposal has also been put forward assuming an overall balance across all areas of the DDA, especially Agriculture, in the context of the single undertaking.

4. Through this submission we have tried to show flexibility and to make a contribution to an agreement in NAMA. Time is running out, so we encourage other members to show their own flexibilities in the coming days.
