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PRESS RELEASE

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Green Rooms Begin with Weak Texts

Hong Kong – The U.S.-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy offered this initial comment on the World Trade Organization negotiating texts on agriculture and services distributed late on December 16th:

Agriculture

There is nothing new on the table in agriculture, except some more specific language on food aid that imply significant changes to existing U.S. programs. The working text on agriculture reflects how low expectations have fallen. None of the proposed commitments address the bottom line: this deal will leave the world's poorest countries, and the majority of WTO members worse off.

Services

Developed countries are pushing Annex C in the face of the clear and repeated objections of developing countries. This intransigence echoes the behavior of rich countries in Cancun, where their insistence on investment and competition was a significant factor in the collapse of the talks. Annex C should be rejected.

To read the texts, go to: www.tradeobservatory.org.

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