Description: Having decided to establish a basis for initiating a process of reform of trade in agriculture in line with the objectives of the Negotiations as set out in the Punta del Este Declaration;

Preamble

Recalling that long-term objectives as agreed at the Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round relating to support and protection have given rise to substantial disparities in agricultural policies and that the reduction of these disparities should be a fundamental element of the negotiations;

Recalling further that above-mentioned long-term objectives is to provide for substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection sufficient to correct and prevent restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets from arising over the period of the reform;

Confirmed in achieving specific binding commitments in each of the following areas: market access; domestic support; export competition;

Recalling that the reform process should take into account non-trade concerns including food security and the need to protect the environment, that special and differential treatment is an integral element of the negotiations and that the reform process should be carried out in a manner that will minimize the adverse effects on food security in a non-discriminatory and market-oriented agricultural trade system, that countries should be able to pursue their legitimate interests in the field of food security and environmental protection on a sustainable basis, that the agreement should provide a framework for the initiation of a process of reform of domestic policies, that care should be taken that the implementation of the agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures does not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade, and that the agreement should be consistent with the rules and disciplines of the World Trade Organization;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should cover all trade in agricultural products;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should be based on the fact that commitments have been made on the basis of non-trade concerns and that these non-trade concerns will be taken into account in the negotiations, including food security and the need to protect the environment, and that such concerns will be addressed in a manner which is fully consistent with the provisions of the agreement resulting from the negotiations;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should be conducted in a manner to foster improvements in the operation of the GATT trading system and that they have agreed that the Negotiations should be based on the GATT system and that they have agreed that the Negotiations should be conducted in a transparent manner to the maximum extent possible;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should be carried out taking due account of the particular circumstances and difficulties of the developing countries and that they have agreed that special and differential treatment for the developing countries should be an integral part of all elements subject to negotiation and that their agreed programmes for adjustments should be taken into account;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should take into account the possible negative effects of the implementation of the decisions on measures concerning the least-developed countries and net food-importing developing countries;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should aim to improve the GATT rules and disciplines with a view to ensuring a fair and equitable framework for markets;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should aim to reduce the adverse effects on the production of the agricultural sector caused by the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should aim to reduce the adverse effects on trade in the agricultural sector caused by the application of technical barriers to trade;

Recalling that the Ministers have agreed that the Negotiations should aim to reduce the adverse effects on the production of