

## **Australia 's Positions on Various Doha Files**

### **1. Agriculture**

Australia is the coordinator of the Cairns Group which comprises agricultural exporting countries and thus has offensive interest in Agriculture negotiations. Australia is also active in the technical discussions on scheduling, and encourages intensive technical discussions in some areas in substantive negotiating issues like SSM .

#### **1. Extra- Number of Sensitive Products for Developed Countries**

Australia may accommodate the needs of the countries requesting extra tariff lines on condition that they present compensation through additional tariff rate quota expansion.

#### **2. New TRQ Creation:**

Since the designation of sensitive products by developed countries is associated with compensation through expansion of tariff rate quotas, there is a point of difference among members as to whether (1) sensitive products should only be selected from tariff lines where there are tariff rate quotas or (2) new tariff rate quotas can be created for sensitive tariff lines.

Australia states that it is ready to work on the basis of the chairman proposal in December 2008 (in a document separate from the modalities) which allows new TRQs to be created under some conditions including the new TRQs should not exceed 1% of tariff lines.

### **On Substantive Issues for Developing Countries in Agriculture Negotiations:**

#### **1. Cotton:**

The December 2008 draft modalities text reflects the original C4 proposal regarding ambitious reductions of amber box support at higher rates than other products, at one third the implementation period of other products. The text also adds the concept of reducing the domestic support provided to cotton by 50% when transferred from the amber box to blue box (A transfer rate of two to one).

Australia supports the C4 proposal and the draft modalities text.

#### **2. Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM):**

Australia welcomes the recent engagement in technical discussions, as it is of the view that technical analysis will help resolve the divergences.

### **Agriculture Notifications (Regular Committee Work not DDA Negotiations)**

Australia is concerned that Egypt has not submitted notifications to the Committee on Agriculture on domestic support and export subsidies since 1999.

#### **Egypt's comment on this point:**

Egypt saves no effort in complying with its commitments under the WTO. Yet, the data are scattered within the different government authorities. The government officials face problems in compilation of data, their verification, and classification under the different support categories. Thus, our experts have requested technical assistance from Australia on this issue.

### **2. Non-Agricultural Market access negotiations**

Australia always insisted on an ambitious coefficient values for developing countries, and has always linked the flexibilities to the coefficient.

Furthermore, Australia is a sponsor of a sectoral initiative on raw materials which was first introduced by the United Arab Emirates , and the sectoral initiative on Gems and Jewellery sponsored by Canada; Chinese Taipei; the European Communities; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; Thailand and the United States

### **3. Services:**

#### **Specific Commitments:**

**Requests and Offers:** Australia submitted its initial and revised offers which include both adding new commitments in new sectors in addition to improvements in its original commitments.

**Concerning the Plurilateral requests,** Australia has submitted 10 plurilateral requests in the following sectors: legal services, financial services, construction services, computer and related services, environmental services, air transport, logistics services, maritime services, energy services, telecommunication services.

**During the Signaling conference,** Australia highlighted that 30% of Australian exports are in services. It requests countries to make improvements in foreign equity caps. Australia indicated that it intends to make a new offer in mode 4. it intends as well to improve its commitments in postal and courier, education, and financial services.

#### **Domestic Regulations:**

During the last two services clusters, Australia submitted new proposals that modify the chair's draft text for "disciplines on domestic regulations". The first proposal is related to technical standards, and the other one is related to licensing requirement and procedures, and qualification requirements and procedures.

### **3.Trade and Environment:**

On paragraph 31(iii), Australia goes along with the USA position that calls for a broad list-based approach. The US position deals with 2 lists, i.e., a core list and complementary list.<sup>1</sup> As regards the core list, only products for which a general consensus amongst WTO Members is found would be considered for further negotiations. In the event, however, that consensus is not found for a particular product or groups of products, each WTO Members would then have to include it in a complementary list set up separately and opened for further considerations. As the US pointed out recently its approach does not take into account PPMs.

Australia supports the climate change friendly product list.

On paragraphs 31(i) - Multilateral environmental agreements (MEA's)- and paragraph 31(ii) – Information exchange – Australia believes that we have the basis to move forward and move into text based negotiations .

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the core list would include products used to clean the environment (Environmental Remediation and Pollution Prevention), whereas the second category would include products designed for a particular industrial or consumer action the use or disposal of which results in lesser impact on the environment than alternative products designed for similar functions (Clean Technologies).

#### **4. Rules:**

- On anti-dumping , Australia belongs to traditional users of the anti-dumping instrument – these include Argentina, Canada, the EU, the US, Australia and New Zealand – who are opposed to amendments that will not result in any added clarity and that will be impossible or very difficult for investigating authorities to implement.
- On Fisheries subsidies, Australia belongs to the so-called group “Friends of the Fish” - namely, Chile, Ecuador, Iceland, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines and the United States – which supports the adoption of specific rules on fisheries subsidies .
- In particular, they actively support a new comprehensive legal framework concerning fisheries subsidies.

#### **5. Trade Facilitation:**

- Raises and supports the application of Advance ruling.
- Enhancement of clearance procedures.

#### **6. Intellectual Property rights**

- Brazil, EC, Switzerland and India: Submitted the position TN/C/W/52, which states that text based negotiations need to take place, in Special Sessions of the TRIPS Council and as an integral part of the Single Undertaking, to amend the TRIPS Agreement to (i) establish a register of geographical indications (GIs) for wines and spirits protected by any of the WTO Members; (ii) include a mandatory requirement for the disclosure of the country providing/source of genetic resources, and/or associated traditional knowledge for which a definition will be agreed, in patent applications; (iii) extend the additional level of GI protection currently granted to wines and spirits to all products, including the extension of the Register; and (iv) include CBD and GI issues in the Horizontal Modalities as part of the Single Undertaking through text based negotiations.
- Australia fully opposes this joint proposal.