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## Glossary

**Aggregate measure of support (AMS):** the gap between a fixed external price and an applied administered price. In the AOA annex it is defined technically as: “the annual level of support, expressed in monetary terms, provided for an agricultural product in favour of producers of the basic agricultural products or non product specific support provoked in favour of agricultural products, in general, other than support provided under programmes that qualify as exempt for reduction under Annex 2”. Annex 3 defines how this is calculated.

**Agreement on Agriculture (AOA):** applies to all agricultural products as well as certain non-edible animal products such as furs and skins. It excludes fish and fish products (covered in GATT 1994 and other WTO agreements). It addresses three main areas: market access, domestic support and export subsidies (see below for definitions).

**Amber box:** payments directly linked to agricultural prices or quantities such as market price supports, input subsidies and direct per unit payments. These are seen as the most trade distorting and are subject to Uruguay Round reduction commitments: developed countries 20 per cent over six years and developing countries 13.3 per cent over ten years. There is no reduction requirement for LDCs.

**Applied tariff:** tariff rate applied to an import when it enters a country. This can be lower than the bound tariff rate.

**Blue Box:** category of domestic support measures that allow countries unlimited spending for direct payments to farmers, if payments are linked to production-limiting programmes with fixed baseline levels. In its 1996 farm bill the US abandoned these programmes. However, the EU, Japan, Switzerland and some other countries still rely on such measures (Murphy, 2002).

**Bound tariff:** the Uruguay Round led to the ‘binding’ in the WTO of a maximum level for certain duty rates, i.e. tariffs were fixed at a certain level (a ceiling). Countries can apply a lower rate at their own discretion but they cannot raise it above the ceiling (see safeguards).

**Cairns Group:** the 15-country group that accounts for 25 per cent of global farm output. The group, which was created in 1986 in the framework of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), is comprised of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay. The Cairns group seeks the elimination of agricultural export subsidies and

assistance for farm production on the multilateral agenda.

**Comparative advantage:** the ability of a country to produce a certain product or services relatively more cheaply than other products. It is determined by relative abundance of key factors of production such as labour, land and capital. The theory of comparative advantage, formulated by David Ricardo (1772-1823), states that countries should specialise in producing and exporting those goods and services that they produce at a lower relative cost than other countries. Under free trade each country would use its resources optimally by specialising only in those goods and or services that it can produce more efficiently while importing the rest (adapted from Spero and Hart, 1997).

**Competitiveness:** the ability of an entity to operate efficiently and productively in relation to other similar entities. The term may also be used to describe the overall economic performance of a nation, particularly its level of productivity, its ability to export its goods and services and its maintenance of a high standard of living for its citizens (Spero and Hart, 1997).

**Development box:** refers to proposals by some governments from the South to create opportunities to protect and promote the interest of low income, resource poor farmers within the context of the AOA. It would create flexibility within the agreement in order to enable the governments to address food security and rural development. Some proposals, primarily from NGOs, also call for a ban on dumping to protect developing countries producers from unfair competition from the North as well as the possibility for government to provide incentives for investment on infrastructure in rural areas. Current 'friends of the development box' include: Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

**Dumping:** the export price is less than its normal value, i.e. a firm sells a product abroad for less than its production cost or the price it charges in its local (home) market. Anti-dumping penalties (usually taken by the country who is the object of this practice) are assessed on the dumped margin (i.e. normal value minus export price).

**Export subsidy:** cash, grants or tax breaks etc., paid or granted to a producer or exporter contingent on the export of that product. There are various types including: direct export subsidies, internal transport subsidies granted to export shipments, marketing subsidies, below market price disposal programmes and producer financed export subsidies.

**Factors of production:** economic resources or inputs that are employed in the process of production. There are two main categories:

1. Human resources composed of: (a) labour – all human physical and mental talents and effort employed in production (manual, managerial and professional skills, etc.); and (b) entrepreneurship or entrepreneurial organisations – everything that facilitates the organisation of all other human resources for productive purposes, such as innovation, organisation, application and analysis.
2. Non-human resources including: (a) land – territories, mineral deposits, forests, airspace, territorial waters, waterpower, etc; and (b) capital – all man-made aids to production, such as buildings, machinery and transportation facilities (Spero and Hart, 1997).

**Food security box:** refers to proposals by some governments from the South and trade activists to enable governments to put in place measures and incentives to prevent hunger, enable a minimum standard of food and stabilise certain food prices. It may be part of or separate from the development box discussion.

**Free trade:** when the international exchange of goods and services is neither restricted nor encouraged by government-imposed trade barriers.

**Gender:** refers to the socially constructed roles and responsibilities and socially learnt behaviour and expectations associated with males and females. These are linked into powerful ideological processes that ultimately confer different and unequal power and control over economic and social resources and political space on men and women. All societies have deeply entrenched (though different and not static) gender inequalities.

**Gender analysis:** the conceptual and methodological framework for analysing, monitoring and evaluating the cultural, economic, social, legal and political relations between men and women in society. Within this framework there must also be recognition of the crucially important links between gender and other social relations such as class, race, ethnicity and North/South relationships.

**Gender blindness:** means ignoring the different socially determined roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of men and women. Gender-blind policies are based on information derived from men's activities and/or assume those affected by the policy have the same (male) needs and interests.

**Gender mainstreaming:** "Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women

and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.” (*Agreed conclusions of the UN Economic and Social Council, 1997/2*).

**Gender neutral:** Gender neutral policies are not specifically aimed at either men or women and are assumed to affect both sexes equally. However, they may actually be gender blind (see above).

**General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT):** The GATT was established in 1947 to institutionalise free trade based on comparative advantage. Two of its fundamental principles are non-discrimination (Most Favoured Nation) and reciprocity. Non-discrimination obligates trading nations to treat all their trading partners alike. GATT 1994 refers to the conclusion of the eighth round of GATT negotiations (the Uruguay Round) also known as the World Trade Organization Agreements (WTOA).

**General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS):** an integral part of the WTOA, GATS covers a range of areas excluded from the GATT, including accounting, engineering, financial, maritime, telecommunications, tourism, transportation, legal and public services.

**Green box:** refers to ‘non actionable’ subsidies under the AOA – subsidies not subjected to ceilings or reduction commitments. It is generally argued that these measures have no, or at most minimal, trade and production distorting effects. However, the CAIRNS group of countries argues that these measures are also causing or have the potential to cause distortion.

**Gross domestic product (GDP):** Total amount of goods and services produced in a country, regardless of whether part of the income accrued to foreign companies or individuals. It does not include income earned by nationals in foreign countries.

**Gross national product (GNP):** the total value, at market prices, of all final goods and services produced in a country in a year. It includes income earned by nationals in foreign countries. It does not include income earned by foreigners in the home country.

**Group of 77:** over 132 developing countries.

**Horizontal issues:** anti-dumping measures, custom valuation and import licences, rule of origin, safeguards and subsidies.

**Implementation issues (also sometimes referred to as systemic issues):** over 100 issues related to the South’s difficulties and challenges with implementing the Uruguay Round Agreements. It is argued that many of these are due to inequities in the WTOA as well as the fact that the North has not followed through on its commitments. A broad array of issues are involved, including problems that



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have been on the WTO agenda since 1998: the agreement on subsidies and countervailing duties, anti-dumping, SPS, AOA, export credits, textiles, TRIPS and TRIMs.

**Industrial tariffs:** tariffs on non-agricultural products.

**Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs):** property rights granted to creators of inventions or ideas embodied in products or production technologies. Includes: patents, copyrights, trademarks and semiconductor chip designs. These property rights grant their holders a temporary monopoly for the sale of the rights to use the items they have created.

**Inventories:** a quantity of goods (finished or intermediate) available for use in production or for sale.

**Landlocked developing countries (LLDCs):** landlocked developing countries are generally among the poorest of the developing countries, with the weakest growth rates. Of 30 landlocked developing countries, 16 are classified as least developed.

**Least developed countries (LDCs):** 48 of the poorest countries. Presently 29 are members of the WTO and 9 are observers. Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Sudan, Samoa and Vanuatu are in the process of accession.

**Like-Minded Group (LMG):** coalition of developing countries in the WTO.

**Local content rules (also domestic content):** generally refers to requirements by a government that obligates a foreign firm to utilise local supplies and factors of production (labour, capital, etc.) in order to operate in that country.

**Macro/ Meso/ Micro:** different levels of looking at the economy. The macro-level represents the most aggregated level of economic activity such as savings, investment, exports, imports and total production of the economy. The meso-level features the dynamics of the market, institutions and inter-sectoral linkages. The micro-level refers to interactions at the level of the household and the firm. Gender biases emerging from the prevailing gender system and ideology operate at all levels.

**Market access:** the provision for the access of goods and services produced by member country into trading partners' economies on a non-discriminatory basis. Market access is often seen as the 'holy grail' of trade negotiations because it is argued that it will lead to increased production, wider availability of goods and services, more employment, income growth and an improved standard of living.

**Most Favoured Nation (MFN):** the GATT principle stipulating that

“any advantage favour, privilege or immunity granted by any contracting parties to any product originating in or destined for any other country shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the like product originating in or destined for the territories of all other contracting parties.” It is a guarantee of non-discrimination or equal treatment in trade relations (Spero and Hart, 1997).

**MultiFibre Agreement (MFA):** A special arrangement that allowed developed countries to control the importation of textiles.

**National treatment:** WTO members must give foreign business entities treatment that is equal to the best treatment provided to domestic entities.

**Newly industrialising countries (NICs):** usually refers to Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Taiwan<sup>205</sup>

but may also be expanded to include Argentina, Brazil, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand.

**Non-tariff barriers (NTBs):** measures other than tariffs that are used by governments to restrict imported goods. They include variable import levies, import quotas, minimum import prices, discretionary import licensing, state trading, voluntary export restraints, labelling and package requirements, subsidies and domestic content requirements, and other similar border measures. Tariffs are preferred over NTBs as they are said to be more transparent, less market distorting and easier to negotiate the reduction or elimination of.

**Non-trade concerns (NTC):** refers to a very broad and growing list of issues that are deemed to be not trade-specific in a technical sense but which are increasingly recognised for the potentially negative impact that trade rules may have on them. These include food security, hunger prevention, rural development, etc.

**Peace Clause:** article 13 of AOA restricts members right to retaliate against other members’ (permissible) subsidies.

**Primary goods:** raw materials such as iron ore, crude petroleum and foodstuffs. They are primary in the sense of not being substantially transformed, e.g. cocoa beans (primary) can be transformed into chocolate.

**Productivity:** the amount of goods produced by each worker.

**Prohibitive tariff:** an excessively high tariff that keeps out imports.

**Protectionism:** advocacy of trade barriers such as tariffs and non-tariff barriers such as quotas or health and safety standards to restrict the import of goods and protect domestic producers and workers from competition.

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**Reciprocity:** the practice of a country offering trade concessions, such as tariff reductions, in return for similar concessions by other countries.

**Safeguards:** an exception to the general rule of not exceeding the bound duty rate and not applying quantitative restrictions on imports. These are permitted temporarily on two conditions: (i) there has been an increase in imports (either absolute over past imports or relative to the domestic production); and (ii) the increase is causing or threatening to cause injury to domestic production. A member can then take import restraint measures (e.g. import surcharge, levy, increased tariff, etc. or quantitative restrictions). Safeguards apply only on bound items.

**Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards/Measures (SPS/SPSM):** technical standards adopted to protect human health, animal or plant life. Key aspects of these are how and where food may be produced, what can be added to it, how plants and animals are to be cared for and identical requirements for all imported food.

**Services:** economic activities that are intangible such as banking, tourism, insurance and accounting, as opposed to goods (tangibles) such as wheat and automobiles.

**Subsidies:** grants, low interest loans and other forms of assistance that governments provide to industry. Some types are permissible while others are prohibited: (a) non-actionable (permissible) subsidies are usually those applied across the board to all industries; for research or contracted to higher education or research establishments; to disadvantaged regions in a country as part of a regional development framework; or for environmental adaptation of existing facilities to new environmental requirements (NB specific conditions, limitations and restrictions apply to all these areas); (b) actionable (or prohibited) subsidies are those contingent on export performance. However, according to the OECD, agricultural subsidies in 1998 amounted to \$142 billion in the European Union (EU), \$100 billion in the US and \$55 billion in Japan.

**Tariff:** customs duty on an imported product at the time of import. Used for reasons of: (a) revenue; (b) protection of local industry and convenience of collection; (c) (differential) tariff to ease or rationalise use of limited foreign exchange (e.g. through high tariffs on luxury goods and low tariffs on industrial raw material).

**Tariff binding:** an obligation not to raise the tariffs on the products beyond the 'bound' level applicable to them. Bound levels are recorded in members' schedules at the WTO.

**Tariff equivalent:** refers to the conversion of a non-tariff barrier (NTB) into a tariff (tax or duty) which gives the equivalent protection sought under the NTB.

**Tariff escalation:** higher tariffs on processed products and lower tariffs on raw materials or on intermediate products in a product chain.

**Tariffication:** removal of non-tariff measures and replacing them by their tariff equivalents.

**Tariff quotas:** providing very low tariffs up to certain specified levels of imported quantities in different products.

**Technical barriers to trade (TBT):** permit the formulation and implementation of regulations to protect the health of human beings, animals and plants (see also SPS). Should be based on scientific evidence and information.

**Terminator technology (also sterile seed technology):** terminator seed is designed to genetically switch off a plant's ability to germinate a second time. This forces farmers to buy a fresh supply of seeds each year, which many in the developing world cannot afford to do. It was developed by Delta and Pine Land Company. The (sterilisation) patent is owned by Delta and the USDA. Related: traitor seed.

**Terms of trade (TOT):** the relationship between the prices of a nation's imports and those of its exports. Nations face declining TOT when import prices rise faster than export prices, while rising TOT occurs when relative export prices grow faster (Spero and Hart, 1997).

**Trade balancing requirements:** generally refers to requirements by a government that obligate a foreign producer to purchase a certain amount of input on the local market and/or to convert some amounts of foreign currency. This is done to protect the exchange rate and ensure foreign exchange.

**Trade deficit:** the shortfall that occurs when in a given period a country buys more goods and services from abroad than it sells abroad.

**Trade policy:** part of a broader umbrella of foreign economic policy that has traditionally been designed to promote competitiveness and to protect jobs and income.

**Trade policy instruments:** include tariffs and (over the years) a host of so-called non-tariff barriers (NTBs). These instruments all have advantages and disadvantages that reinforce the divisive nature of trade policy setting.

**Trade Policy Review (TPR):** the mandate of the Trade Policy Review Division is to review the trade policies and practices of the QUAD (Canada, the EC, Japan and the US) every two years, middle income countries (16) in terms of descending order every four years and all other countries once in six years.

**Voluntary export restraints (VERs/VRAs):** a so-called 'grey area' measure. A variant of an orderly marketing agreement such as the MFA under which an exporting country 'voluntarily' agrees to restrict its export of a commodity to an importing nation. WTO has prohibited future use of these and set a timetable for eliminating existing measures or bringing them under safeguard agreements.