



No Consensus on Brazil's Proposed Roadmap

At the General Council meeting on July 22 and 23, India rejected Brazil's proposed roadmap for moving the agriculture negotiations forward, saying it did not want an informal process to bypass the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session (CoASS – or agriculture negotiating group) and set a precedent. Brazil has been consulting with Members for weeks with a view to submitting its proposed roadmap for decision at the General Council meeting in July. India said the CoASS should remain the main procedure for discussing and then approving the roadmap before submitting it for decision at the General Council meeting.

A week earlier, at an informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee/Heads of Delegation (TNC/HOD) held on July 15 and 16, Brazil stressed that it had listened carefully to Members' comments on its proposed roadmap and had made amendments to its proposal to include elements of the African Group's proposal on the same subject.

At the time, very few Members (with the exception of Chad and Zambia) reiterated their concerns about the process by which Brazil intended to adopt its proposal (i.e. discussions outside CoASS). However, no one expressed strong opposition to the content of the proposal.

In fact, Brazil was confident that its revised draft, which included formulations from the African Group, would be adopted at the last General Council meeting before the summer break. Brazil's changes were reflected mainly in the proposed timetable for implementation, which was less aggressive than that initially suggested.

Indeed, in the revised version, the proposal suggests that the CoASS Chair, Ambassador Alparslan Acarsoy of Türkiye, provides, based on input from Members, annual negotiation timetables to discuss all aspects, including elements and methodology, of each agriculture topics listed in the proposal.

The proposal also requests the Chair of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture to lead negotiations on public stocks for food security purposes (PSH), the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) and cotton, in line with the mandates of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision.

It recommends that Senior Officials (SOM) "meet one year after MC13 and make recommendations for the way forward", and that another SOM be held six months before MC14, to review progress in negotiations, including on PSH, SSM and cotton. Finally, Members must strive to "adopt a comprehensive agricultural framework by MC14 and work towards achieving modalities" that balance their interests while taking into account their food security priorities, which must be implemented within timeframes to be determined by them.

The Chair of the General Council, Norwegian Ambassador Petter Ølberg, has asked Members to discuss this issue this autumn in the CoASS under the leadership of Ambassador Acarsoy.

Broad support for rapid extension of Dr Ngozi's term as Director General

More than 60 Members, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and the EU, expressed support for the African Group's proposal to appoint Dr. Ngozi for a second term as soon as possible.

The African Group stressed that this decision would allow Members to focus on preparations for the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) to be held in Cameroon in 2026, as the early reappointment of Dr. Ngozi will avoid the DG selection process overlapping with the preparation for MC14. The DG selection process is supposed to start at least nine months before the end of the incumbent's term, which in this case is set for August 2025.

Ambassador Ølberg will therefore contact delegations to see if there is consensus to start the process. In the meantime, Dr. Ngozi, who had previously stated that she had not yet decided whether she wished to run for a second term, was invited to formally declare her wish to do so. She stated that she took the suggestion very seriously and was very supportive of the idea of running for a second term. She would consult with her family and respond to Members as soon as possible.

It is worth noting that the US has not commented on this issue. That said, the support that Dr. Ngozi received from developing countries – especially the African Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) group, may be too much for another candidate. To be noted, the ACP group makes up a large portion of the membership). In addition, none of the major players seem unhappy with the work of Dr. Ngozi thus far, a Geneva trade official said.

Geneva Watch is published monthly by Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, and Egg Farmers of Canada to report on the various events occurring in Geneva, especially on agriculture.

For more information or comments, please visit:

dairyfarmers.ca, chickenfarmers.ca, turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca, chep-poic.ca eggfarmers.ca

Legal Deposit: National Library of Canada, ISSN 1496-9254



Les Producteurs d'œufs d'incubation du Canada



LES PRODUCTEURS D'ŒUFS DU CANADA