



General Council Meeting: 31 July 2002
Agenda item 14: Paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the Doha Implementation
Decisions

Statement by Brazil

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by thanking Ambassador Supperamaniam and the Secretariat for the hard work in the process of examination of the two implementation treaties. It is never redundant to stress the importance of the issue to developing countries. Textiles constitute a key sector in terms of the generation of revenue for developing countries. In the context of a so-called "development round" one would have expected a little more flexibility on the part of the restraining members. Unfortunately legitimate expectations have not been met.

The mandate given to the CTG was very clear. According to the text of paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the Doha Ministerial Decision on Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns the Council was required to "make recommendations to the General Council by 31 July 2002 for appropriate action". For reasons we know well, it was not possible to arrive at the required recommendations. This mandate has, therefore, not been fulfilled.

It is useful, however, to remind Members of the background against which the two proposals were formulated. The reality is that, for a number of reasons, during the process of implementation of the ATC, the expectations of developing countries in respect of enhanced market access opportunities for textile and clothing exports in the restraining countries markets have not materialized.

The manner in which the restraining countries have implemented their integration programmes under the ATC, leaving the large bulk of quotas in place until the end of the transitional period, caused serious imbalance to exporters rights. The purpose of the ATC is to secure a progressive phase out of quota restrictions during the transition period. The restraining countries, however, seem to pay little attention to this progressiveness factor. In terms of trade, barely 20% of imports that were under specific quota restrictions have been liberalized.

The approval and implementation of the two proposals would partly redress the balance. Indeed, the CTG has a specific mandate to take appropriate decisions to ensure that the balance of rights embodied in the Agreement is not being impaired. It must be emphasized that the two proposals fall within the existing provisions of the ATC. Their adoption would not require any modification in the Agreement or the domestic legislation of the restraining countries.

Mr. Chairman,

More generally, our serious dissatisfaction with the results of this exercise are amplified when one takes into account the fact that the lack of results in implementation, until now, has been the rule, not the exception. We hope that this situation can be corrected in the near future.