

Commerce Minister's Intervention at the G-20 Ministerial Meeting

14 December 2015

Pakistan is proud to be a member of this group on agriculture negotiations. We recognize its role in keeping the Agriculture negotiations reform oriented and invigorated for better market access and elimination of trade subsidies. This group has always remained at the forefront of Doha Round negotiations and voiced very effectively the need for the elimination of trade distorting policies maintained by the developed countries.

When the global trade figures are giving a dismal picture, it is all the more important that we recall our concern over the increase of protectionism in agriculture trade whether it is through enhanced export subsidies, trade and production distorting subsidies or the adoption of measures without scientific or technical justification which are not in line with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement or the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. Nairobi is an opportunity to share our vision of post Nairobi work in WTO in general and agriculture reform in particular.

I share the disappointment expressed by many of you that export subsidies despite being the most distorting form of subsidy still exist in the agriculture sector and we have again missed our dead line of 2015. In my view it is not advisable to create any linkage between one element of market access pillar with the full pillar of export competition.

I take this opportunity to underline the importance of the continuation of reform process; distortions in agriculture sector affect the most vulnerable and the poorest and undermine the long term development goals of the poor developing countries. We are not prepared to support any retrogressive decision.