



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Private Bag X833, Pretoria, 0001; 184 Jeff Masemola Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: 012 - 312 8511; E-mail: queries@drdlr.gov.za; Website: www.dalrrd.gov.za

Media advisory

10 JUNE 2022

MINISTER DIDIZA TO ATTEND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION 12TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATION IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM 12 TO 16 JUNE 2022

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, MP will from 12 to 16 June 2022 attend the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference on agricultural negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland.

These negotiations are based on Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture, which provides for the continuation of the negotiations on issues relating to agricultural support and protection.

The last major decision relating to agricultural negotiations was taken at the Nairobi WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2015, with the elimination of export subsidies. At the Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017, no joint declaration or work programme could be agreed upon by the WTO membership.

To date, progress has been limited with members mainly repeating known positions. The divide remains largely between developed and developing member states.

South Africa's priority in agricultural negotiations is to achieve a substantial and real reduction of trade distorting domestic support and to ensure sufficient policy space to carry out developmental policies that seek to address poverty, inequality and low economic growth.

For South Africa, the negotiations need to follow a certain sequence with domestic support as a priority. South Africa's view is that market access negotiations should



Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development: Departement van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling
Muhasho wa zwa Vhu limi, Mbuedzedzo ya Mavu na Mveledziso ya Mahayani uMnyango Wezolimo, Izinguquko Kwezomhlaba
Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvu kiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba Nekutfutukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha
nokuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Terno, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga magae Lefapha la
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle

start once substantial progress has been made with domestic support. This is to ensure that historical imbalances are addressed and the playing field is levelled before engaging in further market access negotiations.

Approximately 70% of South Africa's agricultural exports are already duty free, incorporating the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Trade Protocol, the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union, African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) with the USA and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (this agreement is not yet implemented). South Africa's major challenges regarding market access are in the sanitary and phytosanitary field and those are not negotiated with the Agreement on Agriculture.

-END-

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:

- Media Liaison Officer and Spokesperson: Mr Reggie Ngcobo, 0662980980 or MLO.Minister@dalrrd.gov.za.
- Eviction Toll-free Number: 0800 007 095

Follow us on:



@DALRRDgov_ZA,



Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development or  DALRRDgov_ZA

