

EXCERPTS ONLY

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2 June 2003

SECOND LDC TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 31 May – 2 June 2003

DHAKA DECLARATION

PART I

We, the Ministers responsible for trade of the Least Developed Countries, meeting here in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 31 May to 2 June 2003 with a view to undertaking a review of the developments following the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held at Doha (Qatar), taking stock of the current state of the on-going negotiations in the WTO, exchanging ideas and coordinating views to reach a common position for all LDCs at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held at Cancun, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September, 2003, (...)

15. *Invite* the attention of the Members of the WTO to the particular vulnerability of the least-developed countries and the special structural difficulties they face and call upon the WTO bodies and Fifth Ministerial Conference to agree on: (...)

xiii. Establishing an international mechanism to protect the genetic resources, traditional knowledge and farmers' rights and ensure non-patentability for all life-forms

PART II

LDC Negotiating Position for the Doha Round¹

22.c. The review process of [TRIPS] article 27.3b should clarify that plants, animals and parts of plants and animals, including gene sequences and biological processes for the production of plants, animals and their parts must not be granted patents. Members shall select their own *sui generis* system for plant variety protection, including recognizing traditional knowledge and the rights of farmers to use, save, re-sow, exchange or sell seeds. Members shall ensure that the TRIPS Agreement is fully compatible with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).

¹ This segment is an integral part of the Dhaka Declaration.