



CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE ALLIANCE

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Prosperity Through Trade

CHAIRMAN'S PAPER IS BASIS FOR DOHA ROUND PROGRESS

Ottawa, May 3, 2007 - The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) today welcomed release of a paper from the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture for the Doha Round of trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO). In CAFTA's view, Chairman Crawford Falconer of New Zealand has provided a balanced basis for resumption of the stalled negotiations.

In his 26-page paper, Chairman Falconer challenged countries to give up long-held views to make an accord possible. For instance, he called on the United States and the European Union to offer further cuts in their farm subsidies.

"The paper does an excellent job of summarizing the current state of play and proposes pragmatic approaches to finding solutions," says CAFTA President Alanna Koch. "With this paper, the Chairman has provided a significant step forward and an opportunity that Canada and other WTO Members cannot afford to miss."

While some of the Chairman's ideas will pose difficulty for Canada, this will also be the case for other participants. CAFTA encourages the Canadian government to instruct Canadian negotiators to engage fully in the resumed negotiations with a view to resolving the remaining differences and reaching an agreement as quickly as possible to achieve the maximum possible benefit for Canada's agri-food sector.

CAFTA calls upon Canada to be an aggressive champion for the Doha negotiations and a leader in fighting for substantial agriculture trade liberalization. Canada's negotiators must be a constant and leading presence in all aspects of the negotiations to ensure that Canada is a "deal maker" rather than a "deal breaker".

CAFTA represents agriculture and food producers, processors, marketers and exporters who rely on the international market. Our membership accounts for more than 80% of Canada's exports of agriculture and food products and for more than 60% of farm cash receipts. Over 90% of Canada's agriculture producers rely on international markets, either directly as exporters, or as international price takers.

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*CAFTA's members are united in their dependence on trade,
and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.*