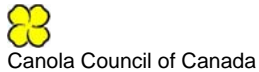




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# NEWS RELEASE

## Coalition Urges Ministers to Maintain Doha Ambition

**Geneva, Friday June 30, 2006** - The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) has joined with the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Australian National Farmers' Federation to call on Ministers negotiating in Geneva not to lower ambition in the WTO negotiations on agriculture.

"Our three countries represent a very large portion of world agriculture and food exports," said CAFTA President Liam McCreery. "We hope that the Ministers here will listen to our strong and united voice and honour the promises they made on launching the Doha Round, and in the summer of 2004. They committed to achieving real reforms in global agriculture trade, including substantial improvements in market access for all products; meaningful reductions in trade distorting domestic support and elimination of all forms of export subsidies."

CAFTA particularly reminds the government of Canada, that Canada was a driver of ambition in Doha and when the negotiating framework was agreed in the summer of 2004. "It is not in the interests of anyone in Canada, for our Ministers to back down now," said Mr. McCreery.

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To reach Mr. McCreery in Geneva: (until July 2) 011-41-79-644-5163  
After July 2, (519) 532-0202

The statement to Ministers is attached.

*The Canadian Agri-Food Trade represents the majority of Canadian producers, as well as processors and exporters of agriculture and agri-food products and suppliers of agricultural inputs. Accounting for over 80% of Canada's agriculture and food exports, and more than 60% of farm cash receipts, CAFTA's members are united in their dependence on trade, and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.*

**A JOINT STATEMENT BY**  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance  
National Farmers Federation of Australia

**Ministers Must Not Lower Doha Round Ambition**

**GENEVA, June, 30, 2006**—Farm leaders from the United States, Canada and Australia urge ministers meeting in Geneva this week to honor the Doha Mandate and keep ambition high in agriculture negotiations.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance and the National Farmers' Federation of Australia remind ministers that they committed to achieving real reform in agricultural trade, including substantial gains in market access for all products, when the talks were launched. They confirmed that promise when they agreed to the framework for negotiations in the summer of 2004. Ministers must not compromise on that level of ambition now.

The average agricultural tariff is 63 percent, compared to 4 percent for industrial products. Agricultural products face over 1,400 tariff quotas designed to restrict imports. The world's richest countries transfer almost \$300 billion USD to support farmers annually – more than six times what they spend on international assistance. The Doha Round is the opportunity of a life time to open up markets and address distortions for all farmers, developed and developing alike.

A comprehensive reform agreement must include as a priority, substantial improvements in market access for all products through deep cuts to all tariffs and meaningful expansion of tariff quotas. This is the minimum required as part of an outcome that locks in significant reform of farm subsidies where there are a number of proposals already on the table.

In order for all WTO member countries to benefit, all WTO member countries must make a contribution. Ministers must not ignore the opportunities that an ambitious outcome to this round can bring. Estimates are that agricultural trade reform could lift incomes around the world by up to \$300 billion USD, with most benefits going to developing countries. Those protectionist countries, that seem willing to forgo those benefits for their farmers, must not be allowed to drive down ambition.

Farmers will not accept a limited outcome from this round. The Doha Development Round will not be judged on its processes or on the mere signing of a final agreement. It will be judged on how much real new commercial trade it creates.