



**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON NEXT STEPS IN WTO AGRICULTURE REFORM  
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MEMBERS OF THE CAIRNS GROUP<sup>1</sup>**

The European Union and Members of the Cairns Group emphasize the crucial role the rules-based multilateral trading system underpinned by the World Trade Organization (WTO) plays, including for global agricultural trade. Nevertheless, despite major reform in some members, there are significant – and in some cases growing - distortions in agricultural trade and existing rules are not fully sufficient to adequately discipline trade distorting subsidies. The 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires is an opportunity to make progress on addressing this challenge.

The European Union and Members of the Cairns Group jointly reaffirm a commitment to achieving progress and believe that focusing on a new discipline on the overall level of the most trade distorting domestic support, with due consideration to the development needs of developing members, offers a meaningful and achievable next step in this process. We will continue to work together with all interested Members toward that end.

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<sup>1</sup> Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, New Zealand, Malaysia, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, Uruguay, Vietnam.