

1 ARTICLE 4 OF THE AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE	1
1.1 Text of Article 4.....	1
1.1 Bali Ministerial Decisions on tariff rate quota administration	1
1.2 December 2015 Ministerial Decision on Cotton	1

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1.1 Text of Article 4

Article 4

Market Access

1. Market access concessions contained in Schedules relate to bindings and reductions of tariffs, and to other market access commitments as specified therein.
2. Members shall not maintain, resort to, or revert to any measures of the kind which have been required to be converted into ordinary customs duties¹, except as otherwise provided for in Article 5 and Annex 5.

1.1 Bali Ministerial Decisions on tariff rate quota administration

At the Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali in December 2013, Ministers agreed on an agricultural package which included a Ministerial Decision related to administration of tariff rate quotas forming part of Members' goods schedules. The decision aims to ensure that Members' tariff quota import arrangements and administrative procedures are applied transparently and do not limit the market access opportunities provided through scheduled tariff quota commitments.²

1.2 December 2015 Ministerial Decision on Cotton

1. At the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2015, Members agreed on specific provisions in relation to duty-free and quota-free market access for cotton and cotton-related products exported by least-developed country Members.³

Current as of: June 2024

¹ These measures include quantitative import restrictions, variable import levies, minimum import prices, discretionary import licensing, non-tariff measures maintained through state-trading enterprises, voluntary export restraints, and similar border measures other than ordinary customs duties, whether or not the measures are maintained under country-specific derogations from the provisions of [the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1947 (GATT 1947)], but not measures maintained under balance-of-payments provisions or under other general, non-agriculture-specific provisions of [the] GATT 1994 or of the other Multilateral Trade Agreements in Annex 1A to the [Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization].

² WT/MIN(13)/39 and WT/L/914.

³ [WT/MIN\(15\)/46](#) and [WT/L/981](#), paras. 1-6.