G20 Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS)

14TH SESSION OF THE
AMIS GLOBAL MARKET INFORMATION GROUP

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Closing remarks

by

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates of AMIS participating countries,
AMIS Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

I welcome the opportunity to deliver the closing remarks at this 14th Session of the Global Market Information Group. We have had the pleasure to host a meeting of AMIS for the second time this year. I know this has been a pretty busy and intensive day, so my remarks will be brief.

At the outset, let me convey the best wishes of our Deputy-Director General, Amb. Alan Wolff, who was unable to join us today. He is, however, looking forward to greeting you all on Thursday during the Global Grain Conference.

Today a lot has been already said about the need for enhanced transparency, particularly in agricultural markets. In the case of AMIS, objective and fact-based information on commodity balances, established in line with agreed methodologies, is of paramount importance. This is a substantive part of your involvement in AMIS. As Focal Points and technical experts, you are helping the world understand what the outlook and perspectives are for global production, consumption, stocks, trade and prices in important food security crops.

I hope, however, that today's programme has also allowed you to gain a better understanding of how governments are currently engaged in strengthening and expanding the current framework of multilateral trade rules; as well as how transparency is at work in the WTO.

WTO rules cover 98% of global trade. The system strives to minimize potential distortions stemming from both domestic and trade measures. Economic growth and development remain at its heart.

This is also a system where each player, whether a developed or developing country, is always afforded an opportunity to define its interests, concerns and priorities in a well-informed manner.
You will soon be returning to these topics since the Global Grain Conference that starts tomorrow covers policy matters, the growing trade tensions between major players as well as the challenges facing businesses and governments in grain and oilseed markets.

In the world of AMIS, market outlooks complement policy monitoring. Your responsibilities necessarily encompass both types of activities. Your detailed feedback is indispensable to the deliberations of the AMIS Rapid Response Forum (RRF), a dialogue and cooperation platform that attempts to mitigate price volatility risks.

Needless to say, the strength of AMIS and its capacity to deliver requires constant and active engagement on your part. This is particularly true as you have just begun exploring options to broaden the scope of AMIS to include the monitoring of food trade junctures.

Along with your personal dedication, G20 Agriculture Ministers have reaffirmed their strong support to AMIS, emphasizing the importance of preserving its success and long term financial sustainability. So let me, once again, congratulate you all (AMIS Secretariat and the AMIS Focal Points), for your hard work and dedication.

My very best wishes for a fruitful Conference tomorrow.

I invite you now to join us for a cocktail reception in the main lobby, which has been kindly sponsored by the Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO.

Thank you.