

**EARLY HARVEST ARRANGEMENT
OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the friendship, as well as the close and expanding economic and trade relations between the Parties,

CONSIDERING the strong complementarities in industrial and trade structures, as well as the willingness to further develop economic and trade relations between the Parties,

CONVINCED that progressive reduction and elimination of trade barriers through the establishment of a free trade area by concluding a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), will facilitate a win-win scenario and mutual development, and cooperation of the two Parties,

ACKNOWLEDGING that an Early Harvest Arrangement of a FTA between the Parties, which preserves the rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement will facilitate enterprises of both sides to benefit from the FTA at an earlier time and boost the confidence of both governments in FTA negotiations,

DECIDING to reach agreement on an Early Harvest Arrangement of a FTA, and launch negotiations on a comprehensive FTA between the Parties, on the basis of the WTO rules and the FTA practices of the Parties,

HAVE agreed as follows:

Article One

The Early Harvest Arrangement, which is an integral part of the FTA, covers the zero-tariff goods list. The Tariff Schedule of the zero-tariff goods is attached as Annex I to this Arrangement.

Article Two

The Parties shall strive to formulate the Rules of Origin of the Early Harvest Arrangement and the Free Trade Agreement through negotiations within 3 months after the Parties conclude the negotiations of the Early Harvest Arrangement. The Rules of Origin will be attached as Annex II to this Arrangement and become a chapter of the Free Trade Agreement after its being formulated.

Article Three

The Annexes of the Tariff Schedule for the zero-tariff goods, and the Rules of Origin shall be regarded as an integral part of the Early Harvest Arrangement.

Article Four

While the Early Harvest Arrangement enters into force, with the aim to facilitate trade, the Parties establish the following bodies:

- a) The Early Harvest Arrangement Commission;
- b) Contact Point and Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; and
- c) Contact Point and Working Group on Rules of Origin.

The Early Harvest Arrangement Commission shall be composed of senior officials, designated by each Party.

The Early Harvest Arrangement Commission will adopt decisions by mutual agreement on any issues that could affect the operation of this Arrangement.

Each Party shall designate a contact point and its members to the Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, for the exchange of information and the identification of the necessary requirements needed to take full advantage of the preferences in this Arrangement.

Each Party shall designate a contact point and its members to the Working Group on Rules of Origin.

Article Five

The Early Harvest Arrangement shall enter into force on the day agreed by the Parties, after the Parties have notified each other through Diplomatic Channels that their

respective legal requirements and procedures have been completed in respect of the Early Harvest Arrangement including the Annexes. The Parties will strive to implement the Early Harvest Arrangement as early as possible.

The Parties agree to strive to conclude the comprehensive FTA negotiations between them as soon as possible.

Article Six

This Arrangement is signed on the twelfth day of July in the year two thousand and twenty two, in the Chinese, Spanish and English languages, the texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Arrangement.

For and on behalf
of the Government of
the People's Republic of China

For and on behalf
of the Government of
the Republic of Nicaragua
