









Exempting Export restrictions for the LDCs? Pros and Cons

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DAVID LABORDE – FAO
IISD WEBINAR

What was achieved (not easily)





47. According to the Action Plan, we agree to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes for food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Program and agree not to impose them in the future. In this regard, we encourage the adoption of a declaration by the WTO for the Ministerial Conference in December 2011.

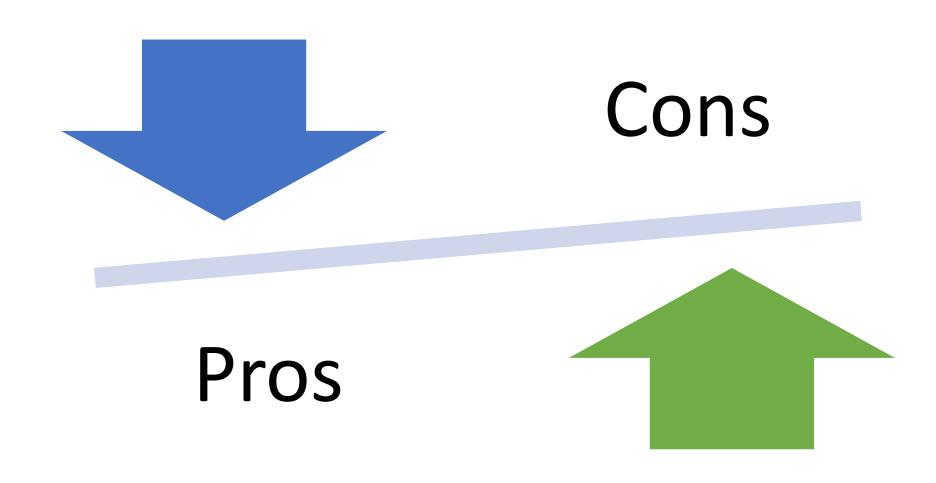


Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference - 2022

Ministerial Decision on exempting World Food Programme (WFP) humanitarian food purchases from export prohibitions or restrictions.

Exempting LDCs from export restrictions?





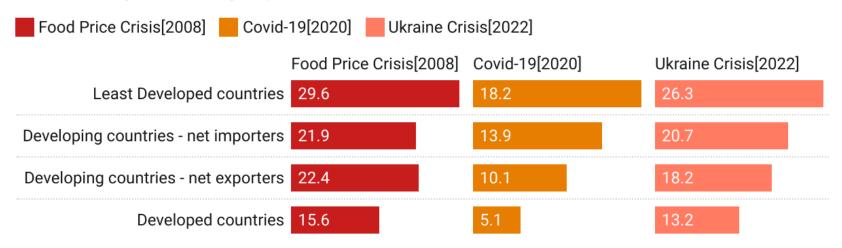
LDCs are particularly exposed to export restrictions



The large majority of food imports by LDCs are not humanitarian

Share of imported calories impacted by export restrictions

Breakdown by economic group.



Numbers include products used for food, feed or energy. Intra-EU trade excluded from computations.

Chart: Abdullah Mamun • Source: Export restriction tracker

And they are a small share of main exporters \rightarrow limited impacts on prices

Cons



LDCs are not always the most exposed: case of the SIDS! Re-exports could occur, but traceability could help Food processing matters (wheat and some oilseeds) The elephant in the room: Price effects! The issue is not availability per se, but affordability in time of crisis •Specific role for short term situation (and blocking shipments already under contract) •Supporting measures like the FIFF or IMF's Price Window.











THANK YOU!