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SUMMARY OF BUILT-IN AGENDA ISSUES FOR THE  
SINGAPORE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Communication from the ASEAN Countries

The following communication, dated 13 May 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN countries with the request that it be circulated to Members.

SUMMARY OF BUILT-IN AGENDA ISSUES

Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES</u>		
Mid 1996*	Identification of non-actionable subsidies	Review of Article 8.2(a) on the criteria for non-actionability of assistance for research activities. The Committee shall review the operation of the provisions of this Article with a view to making all necessary modifications to improve the operation of these provisions. In its consideration of possible modifications, the Committee shall carefully review the definitions of the categories set forth in this Article in the light of the experience of Members in the operation of research programmes and the work in other relevant international institutions.
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		
9-13 Dec. 1996*	Ministerial Decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the Reform Programme on least-developed and net food-importing developing countries	In the Ministerial Decision, Members agree to establish mechanisms to ensure that the availability of food aid to developing countries, especially least-developed and net food-importing developing countries would not be adversely affected. The provisions of the Decision will be subjected to regular reviews by the Ministerial Conference.
<u>TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT</u>		
Dec. 1996	Trade and environment	The tasks of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) was "to identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures in order to promote sustainable development", and to "make appropriate recommendations on whether any modifications of the provisions of the multilateral trading system are required, compatible with the open, equitable and non-discriminatory nature of the system".  The Decision requires the CTE to report to the first meeting of the Ministerial Conference, when the work and terms of reference of the CTE will be reviewed.

\*Issues of interest to developing countries.

Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>AGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES</u>		
1 Jan. 1997	Review implementation and operation of the Agreement	Under Article 7.1, the Committee shall review as necessary, but at least once every two years, the implementation and operation of this Agreement, taking into account the objectives thereof, and the rights and obligations contained therein.
<u>SERVICES</u>		
1 Jan. 1997	GATS Rules	GATS Article XIII calls for multilateral negotiations on government procurement in services within two years of entry into force of the WTO Agreement.
<u>TRIPS</u>		
1 Jan. 1997	Review of geographical indications	Article 24.2 states that the TRIPS Council will have to review the operation of Articles 22-24 on the protection of geographical indications.
<u>GOODS SECTOR</u>		
1 Jan. 1997	Notification procedures and obligations	A Ministerial Decision on notification procedures provides the Council of Trade in Goods (CTG) undertake a review of notification obligations and procedures in the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement.
<u>AGREEMENT ON PRESHIPMENT INSPECTION (PSD)</u>		
1 Jan. 1997*	Review of preshipment provisions	Under Article 6, at the end of the second year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and every three years thereafter, the MC shall review the provisions, implementation and operation of this Agreement, taking into account the objectives thereof and experience gained in its operation. The MC may amend the provisions of the Agreement.

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Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>SERVICES</u>		
1 Nov. 1997	Financial services	<p>The interim Agreement on Financial Services concluded on 28 July 1995 will enter into force from 1 August 1996 to 31 December 1997.</p> <p>Start of renegotiations for a period of 60 days to modify or improve offers in the interim Agreement on Financial Services and/or take MFN exemptions.</p>
<u>AGREEMENT ON RULES OF ORIGIN</u>		
End. 1997*	Agreement on Rules of Origin	According to the work programme set forth in the Agreement, the rules of origin are expected to be harmonized within three years from its initiation in February 1995.
<u>AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (TBT)</u>		
1 Jan. 1998*	First review of TBT provisions	Under Article 15.4, not later than the end of the third year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and at the end of each three-year period thereafter, the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement, with a view to recommending an adjustment of the rights and obligations of this Agreement where necessary to ensure mutual economic advantage and balance of rights and obligations without prejudice to special provisions for developing countries.
<u>AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (SPS)</u>		
1 Jan. 1998*	Review of implementation of SPS provisions	Under Article 12.7, the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement three years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and thereafter as the need arises.

\*Issues of interest to developing countries.

Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING</u>		
1 Jan. 1998*	Integration of next 17% of import volume of textiles and clothing of 1990 (cumulative 33%)	Under Article 2.8(a), the products not integrated into GATT 1994 shall be integrated in terms of HS lines or categories in three stages. The first stage is on 1 January 1998. The products to be integrated shall encompass products from each of the following four groups; tops and yarn, fabrics, made-up textile products, and clothing.
<u>AGREEMENT ON ANTI-DUMPING</u>		
1 Jan. 1998*	Anti-dumping	The standard of review (in connection with dispute settlement) in Article 17.6 of the Agreement shall be reviewed with a view to considering the question of whether it is capable of general application.
<u>SERVICES</u>		
1 Jan. 1998	GATS Rules	Article X of the GATS states that there shall be multilateral negotiations on the question of emergency safeguards, the results of which shall enter into force three years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement.
<u>GOODS SECTOR</u>		
1 Jan. 1999	Negotiating rights	Review process of securing a redistribution of negotiating rights in favour of small- and medium-sized exporting Members under Article XXVIII.

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Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>DISPUTE SETTLEMENT</u>		
1 Jan. 1999	Review of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes	The Ministerial Decision on the Application and Review of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes invites the Ministerial Conference to complete a full review of dispute settlement rules and procedures under the WTO within four years after entry into force of the WTO Agreement and to take a decision on the occasion of its first meeting after the completion of the review, whether to continue, modify or terminate such dispute settlement rules and procedures.
<u>TRIPS</u>		
1 Jan. 1999	Review of the patentability of plants and animals	Article 27.3(b) states that the provisions on the provision of patent protection for plants and animals would be reviewed every four years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement.
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		
1 Jan. 1999* (start of negotiations)	Continuation of the Reform Process	Members agree, under Article 20, that negotiations for continuing the reform programme in agriculture will be initiated one year before the end of the implementation.
<u>AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES</u>		
Mid 1999	Presumption of serious prejudice	Review of Article 6.1 on criteria for existence of serious prejudice. The Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures shall review the operation of Article 6.1, with a view to determining whether to extend its application, either as presently drafted or in a modified form, for a further period. The provision of Article 6.1 is currently applicable for a period of five years.

\*Issues of interest to developing countries.

Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES</u>		
Mid 1999*	Identification of non-actionable subsidies	Review of Article 8 on identification of non-actionable subsidies by the Committee to determine whether to extend its application, either as presently drafted or in a modified form, for a further period. The provisions of Article 8 are currently applicable for a period of five years.
<u>AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES</u>		
Mid 1999	Consultations and authorized remedies for non-actionable subsidies	Review of Article 9 on consultations and authorized remedies for non-actionable subsidies by the Committee to determine whether to extend its application, either as presently drafted or in a modified form, for a further period. The provisions of Article 9 are currently applicable for a period of five years.
<u>AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES</u>		
End 1999*	Export competitiveness provision for developing countries	Review of operation of Article 27.6 on the export competitiveness provision for developing countries by the Committee.
<u>TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM (TPRM)</u>		
1 Jan. 2000	Review operation of TPRM	The Trade Policy Review Body shall undertake an appraisal of the operation of the TPRM not more than five years after the entry into force of the Agreement. The results of the appraisal will be presented to the MC.

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Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>SERVICES</u>		
1 Jan. 2000	New negotiating round on services	Article XIX states that Members shall enter into successive rounds of negotiations, beginning not later than five years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and periodically thereafter, with a view to achieving a progressively higher level of liberalization.
<u>SERVICES</u>		
1 Jan. 2000	MFN exemptions	The Annex on MFN exemptions require the Council for Trade in Services to review all exemptions granted for a period of more than five years. The first such review is to take place no later than five years after the entry into force of the WTO Agreement.
<u>TRIPS</u>		
Ongoing for five years until 1 Jan. 2000*	Dispute settlement	<p>Article 64 of the TRIPS Agreement states that for a period of five years after the WTO Agreement comes into force (i.e. until 1 January 2000), a Member shall not bring a dispute settlement case against another Member on non-violation grounds, i.e. it can bring a case only if the other Member failed to carry out its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.</p> <p>During this period, the TRIPS Council is to examine the scopes and modalities of complaints to be subject to this provision and to submit its recommendations to the Ministerial Conference for approval or to extend the period beyond five years.</p>
<u>TRIPS</u>		
1 Jan. 2000	Review of TRIPS Agreement	Article 71.1 states that the Council for TRIPS will have to review the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement after the expiry of the four-year delay granted to developing country Members, and thereafter every two years.

\*Issues of interest to developing countries.

Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES</u>		
1 Jan. 2000	TRIMS	<p>The Council for Trade in Goods will have to review the operation of the TRIMS Agreement within five years after the WTO Agreement came into force and propose appropriate amendments to the text to the Ministerial Conference.</p> <p>In the course of its review, the Council should consider whether provisions on investment policy and competition policy should be added to the Agreement (Article 9).</p>
<u>SERVICES</u>		
1 Jan. 2000	Bilateral Aviation Rights	<p>The Annex on Air Transport Services requires the Council for Trade in Services to review at least every five years, developments in the air transport sector and the operation of the Annex with a view to considering the possible further application of the GATS in air transport services.</p>
<u>AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING</u>		
1 Jan. 2002*	Integration of next 18% of import volume of 1990 of textiles and clothing (cumulative 51%)	<p>Under Article 2.8(b), the products to be integrated on 1 January 2002 include tops and yarns, fabrics, made-up textile products and clothing.</p>
<u>AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING</u>		
1 Jan. 2005*	Integration of final 49% of import volume of 1990 of textiles and clothing	<p>Under Article 2.8(c), on 1 January 2005, the textiles and clothing sector shall stand integrated into GATT 1994, all restrictions under this Agreement having been eliminated.</p>

\*Issues of interest to developing countries.

Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)*	Review of progress of implementation of Agriculture Reform Programme	Under Article 18, the progress of the implementation of the commitments negotiated under the UR Reform Programme will be reviewed by the Committee on Agriculture.
<u>SERVICES</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)	Professional services	The Working Party for Professional Services (WPPS) aims to recommend measures to ensure that domestic regulations on qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements in professional services do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade. A priority area is accountancy.
<u>SERVICES</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)	Domestic regulation	Article VI.4 provides that the Council for Trade in Services shall create specialized bodies to develop international disciplines "aimed at ensuring that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade".
<u>SERVICES</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)	GATS Rules	Article XV of GATS stipulates that negotiations shall be held with a view to develop the necessary multilateral disciplines on subsidies to avoid trade-distortive effects of subsidies and address the appropriateness of countervailing procedures.

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Deadline	Issues	Tasks
<u>TRIPS</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)	Negotiations	Article 23.4 requires negotiations to be undertaken in the TRIPS Council to establish a system of notification and registration in order to facilitate the protection of geographical indications for wines and spirits. No deadline was given for the completion of this work.
<u>AGREEMENT ON ANTI-DUMPING</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)*	Anti-circumvention	The Uruguay Round Final Act includes a Ministerial Decision on Anti-Circumvention which noted that while the problem of circumvention of A-D duties was part of the negotiations, no agreement was reached. Being mindful of the desirability of uniform rules, the Decision referred the matter to the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices.
<u>STATE TRADING</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)	State trading	The Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994, provides for a working party set up under the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) to review notifications and counter-notifications received from Members on state trading enterprises (STE).
<u>COHERENCE</u>		
No deadline (ongoing)	Declaration on the contribution of the WTO to achieving greater coherence in global economic policy-making	In the Declaration, Ministers invited the Director-General of the WTO to review with the Managing Director of the IMF and the President of the World Bank, the implications of the WTO's responsibilities for its cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions as well as the forms that such cooperation might take, with a view to achieving greater coherence in global economic policy-making.

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