

PROVISIONS FOR REVIEW, FUTURE WORK OR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE  
WTO AGREEMENT AND RELATED DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Note by the Secretariat

The present note, prepared at the request of a number of delegations, is an initial compilation by the Secretariat of provisions in the WTO Agreement, Multilateral Trade Agreements, Plurilateral Agreements and related Decisions and Declarations which contain elements for review, future work or negotiations in those Agreements and instruments. The texts in italics within square brackets have been added for clarification or completeness of the quotes from the WTO provisions. This compilation may be revised if necessary.

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Marrakesh Declaration

".... [*Ministers*] agree to keep under regular review by the Ministerial Conference and the appropriate organs of the WTO the impact of the results of the Round on the least-developed countries as well as on the net food-importing developing countries, with a view to fostering positive measures to enable them to achieve their development objectives." (Paragraph 5)

Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization

-- "With a view to achieving greater coherence in global economic policy-making, the WTO shall cooperate, as appropriate, with the International Monetary Fund and with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and its affiliated agencies." (Article III:5)

-- ".... As part of its functions, the Committee on Trade and Development shall periodically review the special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements in favour of the least-developed country Members and report to the General Council for appropriate action." (Article IV:7)

GATT 1994

"The Ministerial Conference shall review this exemption [*allowing measures that prohibit the use, sale or lease of foreign-built or foreign-reconstructed vessels in commercial applications between points in national waters or the waters of an exclusive economic zone*] not later than five years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and thereafter every two years for as long as the exemption is in force for the purpose of examining whether the conditions which created the need for the exemption still prevail." (Paragraph 3(b))

Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XVII of the GATT 1994

"A working party shall be set up, on behalf of the Council for Trade in Goods, to review notifications and counter-notifications<sup>1</sup>. In the light of this review and without prejudice to paragraph 4(c) of Article XVII, the Council for Trade in Goods may make recommendations with regard to the adequacy of notifications and the need for further information. The working party shall also review, in the light of the notifications received, the adequacy of the above-mentioned questionnaire on state trading and the coverage of state trading enterprises notified under paragraph 1.... It shall report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods<sup>2</sup>." (Paragraph 5)

Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994

"Customs unions and constituents of free-trade areas shall report periodically to the Council for Trade in Goods, as envisaged by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT 1947 in their instruction to the GATT 1947 Council concerning reports on regional agreements (BISD 18S/38), on the operation of the relevant agreement ...." (Paragraph 11)

Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994

".... It is however agreed that this paragraph will be reviewed by the Council for Trade in Goods five years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement with a view to deciding whether this criterion has worked satisfactorily in securing a redistribution of negotiating rights in favour of small and medium-sized exporting Members. If this is not the case, consideration will be given to possible improvements, including, in the light of the availability of adequate data, the adoption of a criterion based on the ratio of exports affected by the concession to exports to all markets of the product in question." (Paragraph 1)

Agreement on Agriculture

-- "Members undertake to work toward the development of internationally agreed disciplines to govern the provision of export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes ...." (Article 10:2)

-- "Progress in the implementation of commitments negotiated under the Uruguay Round reform programme shall be reviewed by the Committee on Agriculture." (Article 18:1)

-- "Recognizing that the long-term objective of substantial progressive reductions in support and protection resulting in fundamental reform is an ongoing process, Members agree that negotiations for continuing the process will be initiated one year before the end of the implementation period, taking into account ...." (Article 20)

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<sup>1</sup>A Working Party on State-Trading Enterprises was set up by the Council for Trade in Goods on 20 February 1995.

<sup>2</sup>Footnote to Paragraph 5 of the Understanding: The activities of this working party shall be coordinated with those of the working group provided for in Section III of the Ministerial Decision on Notification Procedures adopted on 15 April 1994.

Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

-- "The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures provided for in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 12 (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") shall develop a procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and coordinate efforts in this regard with the relevant international organizations." (Article 3:5)

-- With the objective of achieving consistency in the application of the concept of appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection against risks to human life or health, or to animal and plant life or health, each Member shall avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable distinctions in the levels it considers to be appropriate in different situations, if such distinctions result in discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Members shall cooperate in the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Article 12, to develop guidelines to further the practical implementation of this provision." (Article 5:5)

-- "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. Where appropriate, the Committee may submit to the Council for Trade in Goods proposals to amend the text of this Agreement having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in its implementation." (Article 12:7)

Agreement on Textiles and Clothing

"In order to oversee the implementation of this Agreement, the Council for Trade in Goods shall conduct a major review before the end of each stage of the integration process<sup>3</sup>. To assist in this review, the TMB shall, at least five months before the end of each stage, transmit to the Council for Trade in Goods a comprehensive report on the implementation of this Agreement during the stage under review, in particular in matters with regard to the integration process, the application of the transitional safeguard mechanism, and relating to the application of GATT 1994 rules and disciplines as defined in Articles 2, 3, 6 and 7 respectively. The TMB's comprehensive report may include any recommendation as deemed appropriate by the TMB to the Council for Trade in Goods." (Article 8:11)

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

-- "The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof." (Article 15:3)

-- "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, including the provisions relating to transparency, 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 the provisions of Article 12. Having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in the implementation of the Agreement, the Committee shall, where appropriate, submit proposals for amendments to the text of this Agreement to the Council for Trade in Goods." (Article 15:4)

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<sup>3</sup>In other words, before the end of 1997, 2001 and 2004.

Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures

-- "The Committee shall monitor the operation and implementation of this Agreement and shall report thereon annually to the Council for Trade in Goods." (Article 7:3)

-- "Not later than five years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, the Council for Trade in Goods shall review the operation of this Agreement and, as appropriate, propose to the Ministerial Conference amendments to its text. In the course of this review, the Council for Trade in Goods shall consider whether the Agreement should be complemented with provisions on investment policy and competition policy." (Article 9)

Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994

"The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee shall inform annually the Council for Trade in Goods of developments during the period covered by such reviews." (Article 18:6)

Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT 1994

"The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee shall annually inform the Council for Trade in Goods of developments during the period covered by such reviews." (Article 23)

Agreement on Preshipment Inspection

"At the end of the second year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and every three years thereafter, the Ministerial Conference shall review the provisions, implementation and operation of this Agreement, taking into account the objectives thereof and experience gained in its operation. As a result of such review, the Ministerial Conference may amend the provisions of the Agreement." (Article 6)

Agreement on Rules of Origin

-- "The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of Parts II and III of this Agreement having regard to its objectives. The Committee shall annually inform the Council for Trade in Goods of developments during the period covered by such reviews." (Article 6:1)

-- "The Committee shall review the provisions of Parts I, II and III and propose amendments as necessary to reflect the results of the harmonization work programme." (Article 6:2)

-- "The Committee, in cooperation with the Technical Committee, shall set up a mechanism to consider and propose amendments to the results of the harmonization work programme, taking into account the objective and principles set out in Article 9." (Article 6:3)

-- "The Ministerial Conference shall establish the results of the harmonization work programme [set out in Article 9:1] in an annex as an integral part of this Agreement.<sup>4</sup> The Ministerial Conference shall establish a time-frame for the entry into force of this annex." (Article 9:4)

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<sup>4</sup>Footnote to Article 9:4 of the Agreement: At the same time, consideration shall be given to arrangements concerning the settlement of disputes relating to customs classification.

- "The ongoing responsibilities of the Technical Committee shall include the following:  
(d) to review annually the technical aspects of the implementation and operation of Parts II and III." (Annex I, paragraph 1(d))

Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures

-- "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." (Article 7:1)

-- "The Committee shall inform the Council for Trade in Goods of developments during the period covered by such reviews." (Article 7:4)

Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

-- "Not later than 18 months after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures provided for in Article 24 (referred to in this Agreement as "the Committee") shall review the operation of the provisions of subparagraph 2(a) 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 subparagraph in the light of the experience of Members in the operation of research programmes and the work in other relevant international institutions." (Article 8:2(a), footnote 25)

-- "... The Committee shall review the operation of this provision five years from the date of the entry into force of the WTO Agreement." (Article 27:6)

-- "The provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 and the provisions of Article 8 and Article 9 shall apply for a period of five years, beginning with the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement. Not later than 180 days before the end of this period, the Committee shall review the operation of those provisions, with a view to determining whether to extend their application, either as presently drafted or in a modified form, for a further period." (Article 31)

-- "The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement, taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee shall inform annually the Council for Trade in Goods of developments during the period covered by such reviews." (Article 32:7)

-- "An understanding among Members should be developed, as necessary, on matters which are not specified in this Annex or which need further clarification for the purposes of paragraph 1(a) of Article 6." (Footnote 62, Annex IV of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures)

Agreement on Safeguards

"A Committee on Safeguards is hereby established, under the authority of the Council for Trade in Goods, which shall be open to the participation of any Member indicating its wish to serve on it. The Committee will have the following functions:

- (a) to monitor, and report annually to the Council for Trade in Goods on, the general implementation of this Agreement and make recommendations towards its improvement." (Article 13:1(a))

General Agreement on Trade in Services

-- "With a view to ensuring that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services, the Council for Trade in Services shall, through appropriate bodies it may establish, develop any necessary disciplines. Such disciplines shall aim to ensure that such requirements are, *inter alia* ...." (Article VI:4)

-- "There shall be multilateral negotiations on the question of emergency safeguard measures based on the principle of non-discrimination. The results of such negotiations shall enter into effect on a date not later than three years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement." (Article X:1)

-- "There shall be multilateral negotiations on government procurement in services under this Agreement within two years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement<sup>5</sup>." (Article XIII:2)

-- "Members recognize that, in certain circumstances, subsidies may have distortive effects on trade in services. Members shall enter into negotiations with a view to developing the necessary multilateral disciplines to avoid such trade-distortive effects.<sup>6</sup> The negotiations shall also address the appropriateness of countervailing procedures. Such negotiations shall recognize the role of subsidies in relation to the development programmes of developing countries and take into account the needs of Members, particularly developing country Members, for flexibility in this area. For the purpose of such negotiations, Members shall exchange information concerning all subsidies related to trade in services that they provide to their domestic service suppliers<sup>7</sup>." (Article XV:1)

-- "In pursuance of the objectives of this Agreement, 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. Such negotiations shall be directed to the reduction or elimination of the adverse effects on trade in services of measures as a means of providing effective market access. This process shall take place with a view to promoting the interests of all participants on a mutually advantageous basis and to securing an overall balance of rights and obligations." (Article XIX:1)

-- "The Council for Trade in Services shall review all exemptions granted for a period of more than 5 years. The first such review shall take place no more than 5 years after the entry into force of the WTO Agreement." (Annex on Article II Exemptions, paragraph 3)

-- "The Council for Trade in Services shall review periodically, and at least every five years, developments in the air transport sector and the operation of this Annex with a view to considering the possible further application of the Agreement in this sector." (Annex on Air Transport Services)

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<sup>5</sup>The Working Party on GATS rules, at its meeting on 17 July 1995, decided to start negotiations on government procurement in October/November 1995.

<sup>6</sup>Footnote to GATS Article XV:1: A future work programme shall determine how, and in what time-frame, negotiations on such multilateral disciplines will be conducted.

<sup>7</sup>The Working Party on GATS rules, at its meeting on 17 July 1995, decided that negotiations on subsidies should start in February/March 1996.

### Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

-- "In order to facilitate the protection of geographical indications for wines, negotiations shall be undertaken in the Council for TRIPS concerning the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines eligible for protection in those Members participating in the system." (Article 23:4)

-- "The Council for TRIPS shall keep under review the application of the provisions of this Section [*Section 3 of Part II of the Agreement*]; the first such review shall take place within two years of the entry into force of the WTO Agreement. Any matter affecting the compliance with the obligations under these provisions may be drawn to the attention of the Council, which, at the request of a Member, shall consult with any Member or Members in respect of such matter in respect of which it has not been possible to find a satisfactory solution through bilateral or plurilateral consultations between the Members concerned. The Council shall take such action as may be agreed to facilitate the operation and further the objectives of this Section." (Article 24:2)

-- "... The provisions of this subparagraph shall be reviewed four years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement." (Article 27:3(b))

-- "During the time period referred to in paragraph 2, the Council for TRIPS shall examine the scope and modalities for complaints of the type provided for under subparagraphs 1(b) and 1(c) of Article XXIII of GATT 1994 made pursuant to this Agreement, and submit its recommendations to the Ministerial Conference for approval. Any decision of the Ministerial Conference to approve such recommendations or to extend the period in paragraph 2 shall be made only by consensus, and approved recommendations shall be effective for all Members without further formal acceptance process." (Article 64:3)

-- "The Council for TRIPS shall review the implementation of this Agreement after the expiration of the transitional period referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 65. The Council shall, having regard to the experience gained in its implementation, review it two years after that date, and at identical intervals thereafter. The Council may also undertake reviews in the light of any relevant new developments which might warrant modification or amendment of this Agreement." (Article 71:1)

### Trade Policy Review Mechanism

-- "The TPRB shall undertake an appraisal of the operation of the TPRM not more than five years after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the WTO. The results of the appraisal will be presented to the Ministerial Conference. It may subsequently undertake appraisals of the TPRM at intervals to be determined by it or as requested by the Ministerial Conference." (Section F)

-- "An annual overview of developments in the international trading environment which are having an impact on the multilateral trading system shall also be undertaken by the TPRB. The overview is to be assisted by an annual report by the Director-General setting out major activities of the WTO and highlighting significant policy issues affecting the trading system." (Section G)

### Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft

-- The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee shall annually inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT of developments during the period covered by such review (Article 8:2).

-- Not later than the end of the third year from the entry into force of this Agreement and periodically thereafter, Signatories shall undertake further negotiations, with a view to broadening and improving this Agreement on the basis of mutual reciprocity (Article 8:3).

#### Agreement on Government Procurement

-- "Following the conclusion of the work programme for the harmonization of rules or origin for goods to be undertaken under the Agreement on Rules of Origin in Annex 1A of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WTO Agreement") and negotiations regarding trade in services, Parties shall take the results of that work programme and those negotiations into account in amending paragraph 1 as appropriate." (Article IV:2)

-- "The Committee shall review annually the operation and effectiveness of this Article and, after each three years of its operation on the basis of reports to be submitted by Parties, shall carry out a major review in order to evaluate its effects. As part of the three-yearly reviews and with a view to achieving the maximum implementation of the provisions of this Agreement, including in particular Article III, and having regard to the development, financial and trade situation of the developing countries concerned, the Committee shall examine whether exclusions provided for in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 through 6 of this Article shall be modified or extended." (Article V:14)

-- "... To the extent that such information is available, each Party shall provide statistics on the country of origin of products and services purchased by its entities. With a view to ensuring that such statistics are comparable, the Committee shall provide guidance on methods to be used. With a view to ensuring effective monitoring of procurement covered by this Agreement, the Committee may decide unanimously to modify the requirements of subparagraphs (a) through (d) as regards the nature and extent of statistical information to be provided and the breakdowns and classifications to be used." (Article XIX:5)

-- "With a view to ensuring that the Agreement does not constitute an unnecessary obstacle to technical progress, Parties shall consult regularly in the Committee regarding developments in the use of information technology in government procurement and shall, if necessary, negotiate modifications to the Agreement. These consultations shall in particular aim to ensure that the use of information technology promotes the aims of open, non-discriminatory and efficient government procurement through transparent procedures, that contracts covered under the Agreement are clearly identified and that all available information relating to a particular contract can be identified...." (Article XXIV:8)

-- "The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee shall annually inform the General Council of the WTO of developments during the periods covered by such reviews." (Article XXIV:7a)

-- "Not later than the end of the third year from the date of entry into force of this Agreement and periodically thereafter, the Parties thereto shall undertake further negotiations, with a view to improving this Agreement and achieving the greatest possible extension of its coverage among all Parties on the basis of mutual reciprocity, having regard to the provisions of Article V relating to developing countries." (Article XXIV:7b)

#### Decision on Measures in Favour of Least-Developed Countries

-- "[Ministers agree that:]

Expedient implementation of all special and differential measures taken in favour of least-developed countries including those taken within the context of the Uruguay Round shall be ensured through, *inter alia*, regular reviews." (Paragraph 2(i))



- "[Ministers] agree to keep under review the specific needs of the least-developed countries and to continue to seek the adoption of positive measures which facilitate the expansion of trading opportunities in favour of these countries." (Paragraph 3)

Declaration on the Contribution of the WTO to Achieving Greater Coherence in Global Economic Policymaking

".... The World Trade Organization should therefore pursue and develop cooperation with the international organizations responsible for monetary and financial matters, while respecting the mandate, the confidentiality requirements and the necessary autonomy in decision-making procedures of each institution, and avoiding the imposition on governments of cross-conditionality or additional conditions." (Paragraph 5)

Decision on Notification Procedures

"The Council for Trade in Goods will undertake a review of notification obligations and procedures under the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement. The review will be carried out by a working group, membership in which will be open to all Members. The group will be established immediately after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement.

The terms of reference of the working group will be ... to make recommendations to the Council for Trade in Goods not later than two years after the entry into force of the WTO Agreement." (Section III)

Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries

"The provisions of this Decision will be subject to regular review by the Ministerial Conference, and the follow-up to this Decision shall be monitored, as appropriate, by the Committee on Agriculture." (Paragraph 6)

Decision on Anti-Circumvention

"Ministers,

Noting that while the problem of circumvention of anti-dumping duty measures formed part of the negotiations which preceded the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994, negotiators were unable to agree on specific text,

Mindful of the desirability of the applicability of uniform rules in this area as soon as possible,

Decide to refer this matter to the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices established under that Agreement for resolution."

Decision on Review of Article 17.6 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994

"The standard of review in paragraph 6 of Article 17 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994 shall be reviewed after a period of three years with a view to considering the question of whether it is capable of general application".

Decision on Trade in Services and the Environment

-- "[*The Council for Trade in Services decides as follows:*] In order to determine whether any modification of Article XIV of the Agreement is required to take account of such measures, to request the Committee on Trade and Environment to examine and report, with recommendations if any, on the relationship between services trade and the environment including the issue of sustainable development. The Committee shall also examine the relevance of inter-governmental agreements on the environment and their relationship to the Agreement." (Paragraph 1)

-- "The Committee shall report the results of its work to the first biennial meeting of the Ministerial Conference after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization." (Paragraph 2)

Decision on Negotiations on Movement of Natural Persons

"The negotiating group shall hold its first negotiating session no later than 16 May 1994. It shall conclude these negotiations and produce a final report no later than six months after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization." (Paragraph 3)

Decision on Financial Services

-- "At the conclusion of a period ending no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, Members shall be free to improve, modify or withdraw all or part of their commitments in this sector without offering compensation, notwithstanding the provisions of Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. At the same time Members shall finalize their positions relating to MFN exemptions in this sector, notwithstanding the provisions of the Annex on Article II Exemptions. From the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and until the end of the period referred to above, exemptions listed in the Annex on Article II Exemptions which are conditional upon the level of commitments undertaken by other participants or upon exemptions by other participants will not be applied." (Paragraph 1)

-- "The Committee on Trade in Financial Services shall monitor the progress of any negotiations undertaken under the terms of this Decision and shall report thereon to the Council for Trade in Services no later than four months after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement." (Paragraph 2)

Decision on Negotiations on Maritime Transport Services

"The NGMTS shall hold its first negotiating session no later than 16 May 1994. It shall conclude these negotiations and make a final report no later than June 1996. The final report of the NGMTS shall include a date for the implementation of results of these negotiations." (Paragraph 4)

Decision on Negotiations on Basic Telecommunications

"The NGBT shall hold its first negotiating session no later than 16 May 1994. It shall conclude these negotiations and make a final report no later than 30 April 1996. The final report of the NGBT shall include a date for the implementation of results of these negotiations." (Paragraph 5)

Decision on Professional Services

-- "... A Working Party on Professional Services shall be established to examine and report, with recommendations, on the disciplines necessary to ensure that measures relating to qualification

requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements in the field of professional services do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade." (Paragraph 1)

-- "As a matter of priority, the Working Party shall make recommendations for the elaboration of multilateral disciplines in the accountancy sector, so as to give operational effect to specific commitments ...." (Paragraph 2)

#### Decision on the Application and Review of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes

"[*Ministers*] invite the Ministerial Conference to complete a full review of dispute settlement rules and procedures under the World Trade Organization within four years after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, 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."

#### Decision on Trade and Environment

"[*Ministers decide*] to direct the first meeting of the General Council of the WTO to establish a Committee on Trade and Environment open to all members of the WTO to report to the first biennial meeting of the Ministerial Conference after the entry into force of the WTO when the work and terms of reference of the Committee will be reviewed, in the light of recommendations of the Committee".

Note: It will be recalled that, in his concluding remarks at the Marrakesh Ministerial Meeting, the Chairman had listed a number of issues suggested by different Ministers for discussion in the Preparatory Committee for the WTO.<sup>8</sup> The Committee forwarded these issues to the WTO's General Council for consideration and action as appropriate (PC/R, paragraph 82). At its meeting of 31 January 1995 the General Council agreed that these issues would be the object of informal consultations by the Chairman of the General Council for action as appropriate (WT/GC/M/1, pages 7 and 8).

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<sup>8</sup>The issues listed by the Chairman were the following: the relationship between the trading system and internationally recognised labour standards; the relationship between immigration policies and international trade; trade and competition policy, including rules on export financing and restrictive business practices; trade and investment; regionalism; the interaction between trade policies and policies relating to financial and monetary matters, including debt and commodity markets; international trade and company law; the establishment of a mechanism for compensation for the erosion of preferences; the link between trade, development, political stability and the alleviation of poverty; and unilateral or extra-territorial trade measures (MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/6).