

GENERAL COUNCIL

Annual Report (2008)

The present report has been prepared in pursuance of the Procedures for an Annual Overview of WTO Activities and for Reporting under the WTO (WT/L/105), and sets out the actions taken by the General Council in the period since its previous annual report.¹

In carrying out its tasks, the General Council has held 5 meetings since the period covered by the previous report. The minutes of these meetings, which remain the record of the General Council's work, are contained in documents WT/GC/M/113 - 117².

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1. Work under the Doha Work Programme

- (a) Trade Negotiations Committee – Reports (WT/GC/M/113, 114, 115, 116, 117)

Ministers at Doha established a Trade Negotiations Committee under the authority of the General Council to supervise the overall conduct of the negotiations (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1). In accordance with the Principles and Practices endorsed by the Trade Negotiations Committee at its first meeting on 28 January and 1 February 2002 (TN/C/M/1), the TNC reports to each regular meeting of the General Council.

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reporting on the TNC's activities, recalled his statement to an informal TNC on 31 January (JOB(08)/2) and said *inter alia* that political conditions for reaching a

deal on modalities in Agriculture and NAMA were clearly improved, and that all were clearer about the process ahead. The decisive step in the process of establishing modalities would involve a cross-cutting discussion which would start at Senior Official level, with any Ministerial involvement that might be needed taking place later. While there was strong support for proceeding step by step and making the transition from one phase to another in the light of progress on substance, there was less clarity on the scope of the horizontal process, on which further consultations would be needed.

The representatives of Panama, Sri Lanka (on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries), Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Barbados (on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies), Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs), Benin (on behalf of the co-sponsors of the Sectoral Initiative on Cotton), Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Cuba, Bangladesh, Bolivia, European Communities, Japan, Switzerland, Turkey, Canada, Pakistan, Argentina, Korea, Mexico, United States, India, Brazil, Norway and China spoke.

The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.³

At the General Council meeting on 7 May 2008, the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reported on the TNC's activities since February, noting *inter alia* that discussions in the TNC had focused principally on the process for the finalization of modalities in Agriculture and NAMA.⁴

The representatives of Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN Members), Argentina, Lesotho (on behalf of LDCs), Brazil (also on behalf of the G20), Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Uruguay, Mexico, India, European Communities, China, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Costa Rica, Paraguay, Chinese Taipei, Turkey, United States, Honduras, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Japan, Barbados (on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies), Cuba, Switzerland, Ecuador, Korea and El Salvador spoke.

The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.⁵

At the General Council meeting on 31 July 2008, the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reporting on the TNC's activities, drew on his report to the 30 July TNC (JOB(08)/94) and said *inter alia* that despite the recent setback to the goal of concluding the Round in 2008, much had been achieved during the recent intensive negotiations. At the TNC, there had been multiple strong calls for preserving the package that had been negotiated, and Members now had to reflect seriously on the next steps, and new ideas and solutions had to be found and tested where there had been deadlock.

The Chairman of the Negotiating Group on NAMA, and the representatives of Cameroon (on behalf of the ACP banana-producing countries), Bolivia, Cuba, Pakistan (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hong Kong China, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore and

³ At their request, statements by the following delegations at the 31 January informal TNC were also included in the records of this meeting: Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados (on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies), Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Cuba, Ecuador, India, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Korea, Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs), Mexico, Norway, Turkey and the United States.

⁴ The full text of the DG's statement was circulated as JOB(08)/37.

⁵ At their request, statements by the following delegations at the 17 April informal TNC were also included in the records of this meeting: Barbados (on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies), Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the Recently Acceded Members), Ecuador, El Salvador; Hong Kong, China; Honduras, Mauritius (on behalf of the ACP Group), Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN Members), Switzerland and Uganda (on behalf of the LDCs).

Thailand), Bangladesh, Jamaica, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Argentina and Costa Rica, and the Chairman spoke.

The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.⁶

At the General Council meeting on 14 October 2008, the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reporting on the TNC's activities, recalled his statement to an informal TNC on 10 October (JOB(08)/100) and said *inter alia* that work in negotiating groups had resumed and the focus now was on the multilateral process, which would continue in all areas of the negotiations. In view of the deterioration in the financial landscape, he had also reconvened major providers of trade finance to a meeting on 12 November to examine the issue of trade financing, and had constituted a Task Force within the Secretariat to follow up on the effects of the financial crisis on different areas of WTO work.

The representatives of India (also on behalf of the G20), Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Mauritius (on behalf of the ACP Group), Argentina, European Communities, Bangladesh, China, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Chinese Taipei, Brazil, Senegal, Japan, Peru, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Indonesia (on behalf of the G33), Mexico and Bolivia spoke.

The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.⁷

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reporting on the TNC's activities, drew on his report to the 17 December TNC (JOB(08)/134) and said *inter alia* that Members had not been far from achieving their goal of agreeing on modalities in Agriculture and NAMA, but had had to recognize that calling Ministers to try to finalize modalities by the end of the year would have run too much of a risk of failure that could damage not only the Round but the system as a whole. The TNC discussion had shown a collective will to advance the negotiations on all fronts in 2009, and the recognition that the WTO was more than the Doha Round and that all needed to ensure that the WTO remained relevant and attuned to the wider trading scene. Members at the TNC had also discussed a number of areas where the WTO could work in 2009 in addition to the regular work in the various committees and councils. Many had also urged that the next regular Ministerial meeting be held in 2009 to take a strategic look at the future and steps to advance the goals of the organization.

The representatives of India, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Peru, Bolivia, Norway, China and Sri Lanka spoke.

On the basis of the discussion, the Chairman announced his readiness to consult with delegations in January on the broader issues that had been raised.

The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.⁸

⁶ At their request, statements by Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs), Mauritius, Oman, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Uruguay at the 30 July formal TNC, reflected in the records of that meeting in TN/C/M/28, were incorporated by reference into the records of this meeting.

⁷ At their request, statements by the following delegations at the 10 October informal TNC were also included in the records of this meeting: Bangladesh, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group); Hong Kong, China; Indonesia (on behalf of the G33), Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs), Mexico and Thailand.

⁸ At their request, statements by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil (on behalf of the G20), Cambodia, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania (on behalf of the LDCs), Thailand and Vietnam at the 17 December formal TNC, reflected in the records of that meeting in TN/C/M/29, were incorporated by reference into the records of this meeting.

(b) Work Programme on Small Economies – Reports (WT/GC/M/113, 114, 115, 116, 117)

Ministers at Doha agreed to a work programme, under the auspices of the General Council, to examine issues relating to the trade of small economies, with a mandate to frame responses to the trade-related issues identified for the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system and not to create a sub-category of WTO Members (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paragraph 35). At its meeting in February and March 2002, the General Council took note of a framework and procedures for the conduct of the Work Programme on Small Economies, under which this Work Programme would be a standing item on the General Council's agenda. The framework and procedures also provided that the Committee on Trade and Development would report regularly to the General Council on the progress of work in its Dedicated Sessions on this subject. Ministers at Hong Kong instructed the CTD, under the overall responsibility of the General Council, to continue the work in the Dedicated Session and to monitor progress of the small economies' proposals in the negotiating and other bodies, with the aim of providing responses to the trade-related issues of small economies as soon as possible but no later than 31 December 2006. In December 2006, on the basis of a report by the Chair of the CTD in Dedicated Session the General Council took note that Members would be pursuing the substantive work under this work programme.

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD reported *inter alia* that proponents of the work programme had met several times informally and had been actively following work in the various negotiating groups, particularly in NAMA, Agriculture, Services and Rules.

The representatives of Barbados (on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies) and Cuba spoke.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD and of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 7 May 2008, the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD, reporting on developments in this area since the February Council, said *inter alia* that proponents of the work programme had continued to actively follow work in the various negotiating groups, and had made further contributions in the areas of trade facilitation, fisheries subsidies and NAMA.

The representative of Barbados (on behalf of the SVEs) spoke.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the Committee on Trade and Development and of the statement.

At the General Council meeting on 31 July 2008, the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD, reporting on developments in this area since the May Council, said *inter alia* that proponents of the work programme had been actively pursuing their issues of interest and had participated fully in the recent intensive negotiations on modalities and other issues. The Secretariat had been requested to revise and update the compilation paper monitoring the SVEs' proposals in the negotiating groups and other WTO bodies.

The representative of Barbados (on behalf of the SVEs) spoke.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD and of the statement.

At the General Council meeting on 14 October 2008, the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD, reporting on developments in this area since the July Council, said *inter alia* that proponents of the work programme had been actively following developments in the resumed negotiations on Agriculture and NAMA, and stood ready to engage in other areas of importance to them in the Round such as Services and fisheries subsidies. Proponents had also met recently to discuss possible next steps in the Work Programme and possible new issues that the Dedicated Session could address.

The representatives of Barbados (on behalf of the SVEs) and Tonga spoke.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD and of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, in the absence of the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD and on the latter's request and behalf, the previous Chair of the CTD reported *inter alia* that at a meeting on 3 December the Dedicated Session had considered an updated version of a Secretariat compilation of all proposals made by the small, vulnerable economies in the various WTO bodies. The Secretariat had been requested to keep updating the paper to reflect latest developments, including the latest modifications made in the 6 December texts on draft modalities in Agriculture and NAMA. The Dedicated Session had also requested the Secretariat to consult with the financial crisis task force on the impact of the crisis on key industrial and service sectors of SVEs and report back to its next meeting.

The representative of Barbados (on behalf of the SVEs) spoke.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the CTD and of the statement.

- (c) Work Programme on Special and Differential Treatment - Report by the Chairman of the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development (WT/GC/M/115, 117)

Ministers at Hong Kong instructed the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session to expeditiously complete the review of all the outstanding Agreement-specific proposals and report to the General Council, with clear recommendations for a decision, by December 2006. Regarding the Category II proposals that had been referred to other WTO bodies and negotiating groups, Ministers instructed these bodies to expeditiously complete the consideration of these proposals and report periodically to the General Council, with the objective of ensuring that clear recommendations for a decision were made no later than December 2006. They also instructed the Special Session to continue to coordinate its efforts with these bodies to ensure that this work was completed on time. Ministers further instructed the Special Session, within the parameters of the Doha mandate, to resume work on all other outstanding issues – including cross-cutting issues, the monitoring mechanism, and the incorporation of S&D treatment into the architecture of WTO rules – and to report on a regular basis to the General Council. In December 2006, the General Council took note that Members would be pursuing their consideration of the outstanding Agreement-specific proposals both in the Special Session and in the other WTO bodies to whom such proposals had been referred.

At the General Council meeting on 31 July 2008, the Chairman of the Special Session of the CTD, reporting on the status of work in the Special Session since December 2007, highlighted key points of a report he had circulated in TN/CTD/22, and noted that work in the Special Session had been focusing on two main areas: Agreement-specific proposals and elements of a monitoring mechanism, on both of which more work would be needed before Members could reach agreement.

He also reported on updates provided to the Special Session by the Chairpersons concerned on the Category II proposals.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the CTD in Special Session.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, the Chairman of the Special Session of the CTD, reporting on the status of work in the Special Session since July, drew attention to his written report in document TN/CTD/23 and briefly highlighted the key points therein, noting that work in the Special Session would continue in line with the Hong Kong mandate, focussing on the Agreement-specific proposals and the Monitoring Mechanism with the aim of concluding it as soon as possible and certainly no later than the conclusion of the Doha Round. On the Category II proposals, he would continue to coordinate efforts with the relevant Chairs to ensure that progress was expedited on these as well.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the CTD in Special Session.

- (d) Review under Paragraph 8 of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health – Report of the Council for TRIPS (WT/GC/M/117)

In August 2003, the General Council adopted a Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health (WT/L/540 and Corr.1). Paragraph 8 of that Decision provides that the TRIPS Council shall review annually the functioning of the system set out in the Decision with a view to ensuring its effective operation, and shall annually report on its operation to the General Council. In keeping with the August 2003 Decision, the General Council in December 2005 adopted a Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, which was submitted to Members for acceptance and which, in keeping with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement, would enter into force upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members (WT/L/641). In December 2007, the General Council extended the time period for acceptance of the Protocol to 31 December 2009 (WT/L/711).

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered a report by the TRIPS Council on its fifth annual review under paragraph 8 of the General Council Decision (IP/C/49 and Corr.1).

The Chairman of the TRIPS Council introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the report of the TRIPS Council.

- (e) Follow-up to the 1 August 2004 General Council Decision and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration on the Doha Work Programme – Statement by the Director-General on the Development Assistance Aspects of Cotton (WT/GC/M/117)

In Paragraph 1.b of the 1 August 2004 Decision on the Doha Work Programme (WT/L/579), the General Council, *inter alia*, instructed the Secretariat to continue to work with the development community and to provide the Council with periodic reports on relevant developments. The Council also instructed the Director-General to consult with relevant international organizations, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Trade Centre, to direct effectively existing programmes and any additional resources towards development of the economies where cotton has vital importance. Ministers at Hong Kong reaffirmed the 2004 mandate, deepening and extending it in several respects. In inviting the Director-General to furnish them with a Third Periodic Report at their next Session, Ministers asked the Director-General

to provide updates, at appropriate intervals in the meantime, to the General Council, while keeping the Sub-Committee on Cotton fully informed of progress.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, the Director-General, reporting on the state-of-play of cotton development assistance since his last report in December 2007, said *inter alia* that the 5th edition of the Evolving Table showed improvements in the amount of development assistance committed to the cotton sector, as well as improvements in the actual disbursements. There was a need for continued engagement on the development assistance aspects by the donor community, as also continued domestic cotton sector reform. The Director-General noted that cotton development assistance was only one aspect of the cotton dossier, the other being the trade-related aspects that were part of the Doha negotiations, and progress must continue to be made on both.

The representative of Burkina Faso spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

2. China – Transitional review under Section 18.2 of the Protocol of Accession to the WTO Agreement (WT/GC/M/117)

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council conducted its seventh review of China's implementation of the WTO Agreement and the provisions of the Protocol of Accession. In so doing, the General Council considered a communication from China (WT/GC/116) which provided information required under Sections I and III of Annex 1A of the Protocol of Accession, as well as reports from subsidiary bodies on their respective reviews (G/L/875, S/C/31, IP/C/50, WT/BOP/R/89).

The representatives of China, Nigeria, United States, Japan and the European Communities, and the Chairman spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and of the reports submitted by the subsidiary bodies on the conduct of their respective reviews, and agreed that the seventh review by the General Council of China's implementation of the WTO Agreement and the provisions of its Protocol of Accession had been concluded.

3. Non-recognition of rights under Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of GATT 1994 – Communications from Honduras and Guatemala (WT/GC/M/113, 114, 115, 116, 117)

In December 2004, at the request of Honduras and Guatemala, the General Council considered the question of non-recognition of rights for the processes under Articles XXIV:6 and XXVIII of GATT 1994 in connection with the enlargement of the EC from 15 to 25 members and its move to a tariff-only regime on bananas from 1 January 2006. This matter was subsequently considered by the General Council at each regular meeting since then without resolution, and in December 2007 the Council agreed to revert to it at its next meeting.

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the Chairman, reporting on his recent consultations, said that they had been frank and very useful in clarifying both the current state-of-play and the steps that were planned to be taken in the coming weeks by the EC towards a resolution to the concerns that had been raised. The constructive and good faith nature of the discussion gave him hope that the parties concerned would be able to reach a negotiated settlement in the very near future.

The representatives of Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, European Communities and Mexico spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At its meeting on 7 May 2008, the General Council again considered this matter and heard a report from the Chairman on his consultations in which he noted *inter alia* that, while these had been useful, the lack of a negotiated settlement as yet was very clearly not satisfactory from the point of view of the Members that had brought this matter to the Council's attention, and that Members would therefore have to work a lot harder collectively to find some way forward.

The representatives of Honduras, Guatemala, St. Lucia (on behalf of CARICOM), Paraguay, Panama, Nicaragua, Mexico, Cameroon, Argentina and the European Communities spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the General Council heard a report from the Chairman on his consultations in which he noted *inter alia* that while there had been developments in consultations among the parties since the May Council, there was clearly much frustration and disappointment that these had not as yet led to a resolution of the matter. The status quo continued to be unsatisfactory from the point of view of Honduras and Guatemala, and he had encouraged the parties to continue consultations and to work harder towards an early resolution.

The representatives of Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, European Communities, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, and the Chairman spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

At its meeting on 14 October 2008, the General Council heard a report from the Chairman on his consultations in which he noted *inter alia* that the situation remained unresolved and clearly continued to be unsatisfactory from the point of view of the delegations who had brought this matter to the Council's attention. He had therefore again urged the parties to continue consultations with a view to finalizing this matter at the earliest opportunity – an objective that all Members shared.

The representatives of Honduras, Guatemala, Cameroon, Ecuador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Panama, European Communities and Colombia spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, the Chairman, reporting on his consultations on this matter, said that there was as yet no resolution to this matter and this situation clearly continued to be quite unsatisfactory to the delegations who had brought the matter to the Council. He stood ready to continue to offer his good offices in this process as, he was certain, would his successor in 2009. He emphasized however that consultations at the level of the General Council could not be allowed to become just a routine matter without any discernible progress over such a long period of time, and strongly exhorted the delegations primarily concerned to reconsider positions and reinvigorate their discussions with a view to finalizing this matter at the earliest opportunity.

The representatives of Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Argentina, European Communities and the Dominican Republic spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

4. Transparency for Preferential Trade Arrangements – Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development (WT/GC/M/115, 117)

In December 2006, the General Council adopted a Decision on Transparency for Preferential Trade Arrangements (WT/L/672) inviting the Committee on Trade and Development to consider transparency for preferential trade arrangements under paragraph 2 of the Enabling Clause – other than RTAs – and to report back within six months for appropriate action by the General Council. Subsequently, in July and December 2007, on the basis of reports from the Chairman of the CTD, the General Council agreed to extend the deadline for the CTD to consider this matter and to report back for appropriate action by successive six-month periods, i.e. until July 2008.

At the General Council meeting on 31 July 2008, the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development, reporting on its consideration of this matter, said *inter alia* that while there had been considerable work on the proponents' draft text, it was clear that more time and work was needed before the CTD could come to a decision. The CTD had therefore agreed to request that the General Council allow it until December 2008 to consider the matter further and report back for appropriate action.

The Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the CTD, and agreed that the deadline for the CTD to consider this matter and to report back for appropriate action be extended to December 2008.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development and on the latter's request and behalf, the previous Chair of the CTD reported that while important progress had been made since the July Council, a number of issues remained to be settled and further discussion was needed. The CTD had therefore agreed to request that the General Council allow it until July 2009 to consider the matter further and report back for appropriate action.

The representative of Brazil spoke.

The General Council took note of the report by the Chairman of the CTD and of the statement, and agreed that the deadline for the CTD to consider this matter and to report back for appropriate action be extended to July 2009.

5. Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration – Reports and recommendations (WT/GC/M/114, 115, 117)

At its meeting on 7 May 2008, the General Council considered a report by the Budget Committee on its meeting of February (WT/BFA/102).

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendation in paragraph 20 of its report in WT/BFA/102, and adopted the report.

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the General Council considered a report by the Budget Committee on its meeting of May 2008 (WT/BFA/103).

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report.

The Director-General and the representative of Switzerland spoke with regard to the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the WTO and the Swiss Confederation on the long-term housing needs of the WTO referred to in paragraph 18 of the Committee's report.

The General Council took note of the statements, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 18, 25 and 27 of its report in WT/BFA/103 – including that the Director-General be authorized to sign the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the WTO on the long-term housing needs of the WTO as contained in document WT/BFA/W/170 – and adopted the Committee's report in WT/BFA/103.

The General Council then considered a report by the Budget Committee on its meeting of July 2008 (WT/BFA/104).

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendation in paragraph 28 of its report in WT/BFA/104, and adopted the report.

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered a report by the Budget Committee on its meeting of 9 October (WT/BFA/105).

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Committee's specific recommendations in paragraph 23 of its report in WT/BFA/105, and adopted the report.

The General Council then considered a report by the Budget Committee on its meeting of 23 October (WT/BFA/106).

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the statement and adopted the Committee's report in WT/BFA/106.

The General Council then considered a report by the Budget Committee on its meetings of November and December (WT/BFA/107).

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the statement, and approved the Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 13, 18, 21 and 22 of its report, including the draft Resolution referred to in paragraph 18. The General Council then adopted the draft Resolution on the Revised Expenditure of the WTO in 2009, and the Ways and Means to Meet Such Expenditure, contained in paragraph 18 of its report. The General Council then adopted the Committee's report in WT/BFA/107 as a whole.

6. Accession matters

(a) Equatorial Guinea (WT/GC/M/113)

At its meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the General Council considered a communication from Equatorial Guinea requesting accession to the WTO Agreement pursuant to Article XII (WT/ACC/GNQ/1).

The Chairman proposed that the General Council agree to establish a Working Party with standard terms of reference and membership, which he read out.

The representatives of Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Cuba, Sri Lanka (on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries), Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Angola, Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs), China, Brazil, Costa Rica (on behalf of GRULAC), Bangladesh, Mexico, United States, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Ecuador and Equatorial Guinea (as an observer) spoke.

The General Council agreed to establish a working party with the terms of reference and composition as read out earlier by the Chairman.

The Chairman then invited the representative of Equatorial Guinea to consult with the Accessions Division of the Secretariat as to further procedures, in particular with regard to the basic documentation to be considered by the Working Party.

The Director-General spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and of the expressions of welcome and support.

(b) Kazakhstan (WT/GC/M/116)

In February 1996, the General Council established a Working Party to examine the request by Kazakhstan for accession to the WTO Agreement.

At its meeting on 14 October 2008, the Chairman informed the General Council that following informal consultations, and in keeping with usual WTO practice, it had been agreed that Mr Hannu Himanen (Finland) would serve as Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Kazakhstan, replacing Mr Vesa Himanen (Finland) who was no longer available to serve in this capacity.

The General Council took note of the statement.

(c) Serbia (WT/GC/M/116)

In February 2005, the General Council established a Working Party to examine the request of Serbia for accession to the WTO Agreement.

At its meeting on 14 October 2008, the Chairman informed the General Council that following informal consultations, and in keeping with usual WTO practice, it had been agreed that Mrs Capra (Sweden) would serve as Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Serbia, replacing Mr Nielsen (Denmark) who was no longer available to serve in this capacity.

The General Council took note of the statement.

(d) Ukraine (WT/GC/M/113)

In December 1993, the GATT 1947 Council established a Working Party to examine Ukraine's request for accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Subsequently, in line

with the General Council Decision of 31 January 1995⁹, the GATT 1947 Working Party had been transformed into a WTO Accession Working Party.

At its meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the General Council considered the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of Ukraine (WT/ACC/UKR/152 and Add.1 and 2).

The Chairman of the Working Party spoke.

The General Council approved the text of the Protocol of Accession of Ukraine (WT/L/718) and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decision on the Accession of Ukraine (WT/L/718). The General Council then adopted the Report of the Working Party as a whole (WT/ACC/UKR/152 and Add.1 and Add.2).

The Chairman, the President of Ukraine and the Director-General spoke, following which the representatives of the European Communities, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), United States, Costa Rica (on behalf of GRULAC), Japan, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Canada, Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN Members), China, India, Brazil (also on behalf of the G20), Turkey, Indonesia (on behalf of the G33), Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs), Kyrgyz Republic, Sri Lanka (on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries), Switzerland, Georgia, Barbados (on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies), Israel, Norway, Chinese Taipei and Korea spoke.

In keeping with a procedural suggestion made by the Chairman at the outset, the representatives of Argentina, Viet Nam and the Russian Federation (as an observer) submitted statements for inclusion in the records of the meeting. The representatives of Australia (on behalf of the Cairns Group), Paraguay and Hong Kong, China wished to be placed on record as also welcoming and supporting the accession of Ukraine.

The General Council took note of the statements and of the expressions of welcome and support.

(e) Uzbekistan (WT/GC/M/114)

In December 1994, the Preparatory Committee to the WTO agreed to establish a Working Party to examine Uzbekistan's request for accession to the WTO Agreement.

At its meeting on 7 May 2008, the Chairman informed the General Council that following informal consultations, and in keeping with usual WTO practice, it had been agreed that Mr Lee (Korea) would serve as Chairman of this Working Party, replacing Mr Choi (Korea) who was no longer available to serve in this capacity.

The representative of Nigeria (on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries) spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

⁹ See WT/GC/M/1, Item 4(g).

7. Waivers

- (a) Introduction of Harmonized System 1996 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions – Argentina and Panama (WT/GC/M/115)

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the General Council considered draft decisions in documents G/C/W/595 and 596 providing for waivers from the provisions of Article II of GATT 1994 until 30 April 2009 for Argentina and Panama respectively to enable them to implement the HS 1996 changes into their Schedules of Concessions.

The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft decisions by that Council.

The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decisions (WT/L/733 – Argentina and WT/L/734 – Panama).

- (b) Introduction of Harmonized System 2002 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions (WT/GC/M/117)

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered a draft Decision to waive obligations under Article II of GATT 1994 for a number of Members with regard to the introduction of HS2002 changes into WTO schedules of tariff concessions (G/C/W/601/Rev.1).

The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft Decision by that Council.

The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decision (WT/L/744).

- (c) Introduction of Harmonized System 2007 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions (WT/GC/M/117)

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered a draft Decision to waive obligations under Article II of GATT 1994 for a number of Members with regard to the introduction of HS2007 changes into WTO schedules of tariff concessions (G/C/W/602).

The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft Decision by that Council.

In the light of the report by the Chair of the Goods Council, the Chairman proposed that the General Council consider the draft Decision for adoption with the addition of the Dominican Republic and Israel to the Annex thereto.

The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decision as amended (WT/L/745).

- (d) European Communities – Application of autonomous preferential treatment to Moldova (WT/GC/M/114)

At its meeting on 7 May 2008, the General Council considered a request from the European Communities (G/C/W/592) for a waiver from the provisions of Article I:1 and Article XIII of GATT 1994 to permit the EC to afford duty-free or preferential treatment to products originating in Moldova, and a related draft decision (G/C/W/597).

The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft decision by that Council.

The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decision (WT/L/722).

- (e) Senegal – Customs Valuation Agreement

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the General Council considered a draft decision in document G/C/W/594 providing for a waiver for Senegal from the provisions on minimum values of the Customs Valuation Agreement until 30 June 2009.

The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft decision by that Council.

The General Council took note of the report and, in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed in November 1995 (WT/L/93), adopted the Decision (WT/L/735).

- (f) Review of Waivers Pursuant to Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement (WT/GC/M/115, 117)

Under Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement "[a]ny waiver granted for a period of more than one year shall be reviewed by the Ministerial Conference not later than one year after it is granted, and thereafter annually until the waiver terminates."

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the General Council considered the following waivers for review under Article IX:4:

- (i) Preferential tariff treatment for least-developed countries (WT/L/304)
- (ii) LDCs – Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to pharmaceutical products (WT/L/478)
- (iii) Albania - Implementation of specific concessions (WT/L/610)
- (iv) European Communities - Preferences for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (WT/L/654, WT/L/731/Rev.1)
- (v) United States - Former Territory of the Pacific Islands (WT/L/694, WT/L/730)
- (vi) Mongolia - Export duties on raw cashmere (WT/L/695)

In so doing, the General Council considered reports on the implementation of the respective waivers submitted by the European Communities (WT/L/731/Rev.1) and the United States (WT/L/730).

The Chairman recalled, with regard to the waiver in sub-item (ii) for LDCs under the TRIPS Agreement, that in connection with the approval of this draft waiver at the meeting of the TRIPS

Council in June 2002, the Chairman of the TRIPS Council had noted that it was understood, in regard to the review foreseen in paragraph 2 of that waiver, that the exceptional circumstances justifying the waiver would continue to exist for least-developed country Members until its expiry date of 1 January 2016.

The representative of Lesotho (on behalf of the LDCs) spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and of the reports in documents WT/L/730 and 731/Rev.1, and agreed to revert to the review of multi-year waivers under Article IX:4 at its meeting in December.

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered the following waivers for review under Article IX:4:

- (i) Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds (WT/L/676);
- (ii) Canada – CARIBCAN (WT/L/677, WT/L/741);
- (iii) Cuba - Article XV:6 of GATT 1994 (WT/L/742)

In so doing, the General Council considered reports on the implementation of the respective waivers submitted by Canada (WT/L/741) and Cuba (WT/L/742).

The General Council took note of the reports contained in documents WT/L/741 and 742.

8. ACP-EC Economic Partnership Agreements (WT/GC/M/113, 114)

At its meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the General Council considered a communication from Brazil (WT/GC/W/585) expressing concern that the ACP-EC Economic Partnership Agreements might include clauses requiring the extension to the EC of any preferences, on a line-by-line basis, made to other parties under regional agreements or under arrangements made between developing countries, which it believed would be contrary to the Enabling Clause and have systemic implications.

The representatives of Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, India, Paraguay, Honduras, Pakistan, China, Panama, South Africa, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Uruguay, European Communities and the Dominican Republic spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At its meeting on 7 May 2008, the General Council again considered this matter.

The representatives of Brazil, China, India, Ecuador, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group), Argentina, South Africa, Paraguay, St. Lucia, Uruguay, Lesotho, Pakistan, Côte d'Ivoire, European Communities, Mauritius, Haiti, Cameroon and Chile spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

9. EC – Suspension of fresh beef imports from Brazil (WT/GC/M/113)

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the representative of Brazil expressed concern at the EC's decision to temporarily suspend imports of Brazilian beef into the European market.

The representative of the European Communities spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

10. Statement by Sri Lanka on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries (WT/GC/M/115)

At the General Council meeting on 31 July 2008, the representative of Sri Lanka (on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries) made a statement reiterating concerns of the Informal Group regarding the process of accession of developing countries.

The General Council took note of the statement.

11. Administrative Measures for Members in Arrears (WT/GC/M/113, 114, 115, 116, 117)

At its meeting in May 2006, the General Council approved a recommendation from the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration with regard to revised Administrative Measures for Members in Arrears (WT/BFA/86) under which, *inter alia*, at each meeting of the General Council the Chairman of the Budget Committee would provide information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures in Categories II through IV, and the General Council Chairman would request Members in Categories III and IV to inform him before the next Council meeting as to when the payment of arrears might be expected and report on Members' replies at each subsequent meeting.

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures in Categories II through IV. Also in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Council Chairman requested Members in Categories III and IV to inform him before the next meeting of the Council as to when their payment of arrears might be expected. He informed the Council that since its December meeting he had not received any replies from the Members concerned.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 7 May 2008, in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures in Categories II through IV. Also in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Council Chairman requested Members in Categories III and IV to inform him before the next meeting of the Council as to when their payment of arrears might be expected. He informed the Council that since its February meeting he had not received any replies from the Members concerned.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 31 July 2008, in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures in Categories II through IV. Also in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Council Chairman requested Members in Categories III and IV to inform him before the next meeting of the Council as to when their payment of arrears might be expected. He informed the Council that since its May meeting he had not received any replies from the Members concerned.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 14 October 2008, in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures in Categories II through IV. Also in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Council Chairman requested Members in Categories III and IV to inform him before the next meeting of the Council as to when their payment of arrears might be expected. He informed the Council that since its July meeting he had not received any replies from the Members concerned.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures in Categories II through IV. Also in pursuance of the revised Administrative Measures, the Council Chairman requested Members in Categories III and IV to inform him before the next meeting of the Council as to when their payment of arrears might be expected. He informed the Council that since its October meeting he had not received any replies from the Members concerned.

The General Council took note of the statements.

12. WTO Pension Plan

(a) Election of Chairman, Members and Alternates to the Management Board (WT/GC/M/114)

Article 4 of the Regulations of the WTO Pension Plan (WT/L/282) provides *inter alia* for the election by the General Council of a Chairman, four members and four alternates to serve on the Management Board, each for a three-year term.

At the General Council meeting on 7 May 2008, the Chairman drew attention to a proposal circulated by him in document WT/GC/W/588 on the basis of which he proposed that the General Council agree to the election of the following candidates to serve on the Pension Plan Management Board for a three-year term: Chairperson – Mr Niggli (Switzerland); Members – Mr Johnston (United Kingdom), Mr Tagliani (United States), Mr Trindade (Australia), Ms Yan (Hong Kong, China); Alternates – Mr Francke (Chile), Ms Grant (Canada), Mr Mignon (France), Mr Parola (Brazil).

The General Council agreed to the election of the above individuals to the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan for a three-year term.¹⁰

(b) Annual Report (WT/GC/M/117)

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered an Annual Report of the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan for 2007 (WT/L/736).

The Chairman of the WTO Pension Plan Management Board introduced the report.

The General Council took note of the statement and of the Annual Report in WT/L/736.

¹⁰ WT/L/723.

- (c) Actuarial Position of the Pension Plan – Statement by the Chairman of the Management Board (WT/GC/M/117)

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, the Chairman of the Pension Plan Management Board said that the Pension Plan was currently in an actuarial deficit and that the Management Board had in response drawn up a balanced approach for its correction with the support of both sets of Plan stakeholders, i.e. Members and participants. The Management Board's proposals had been submitted to the Budget Committee, which would revert to this matter early in 2009.

The General Council took note of the statement.

13. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (WT/GC/M/115)

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the General Council considered a report of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its Forty-first Session (ITC/AG(XLI)/216).

The Chairman recalled that, in keeping with customary practice, this report had been considered initially by the Committee on Trade and Development at its meeting on 15 July.

The Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development reported on the Committee's consideration of the report of the Joint Advisory Group.

The representative of Uruguay spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements and adopted the report of the Joint Advisory Group in document ITC/AG(XLI)/216.

14. Appointment of the next Director-General (WT/GC/M/116)

At the General Council meeting on 14 October 2008, the Chairman informed Members that under the Procedures for the Appointment of Directors-General (WT/L/509), the process for the appointment of the next Director-General would begin on 1 December 2008 and that in line with the agreed Procedures he would formally notify the opening of the process in a communication to all Members at that time.¹¹ He then recalled some of the time-lines for the appointment process as set out in the Procedures, noting also that if the serving Director-General decided to seek reappointment, he should so notify the General Council Chair before the start of the process, and would thereby be considered to be a candidate. In keeping with the Procedures, the Council Chair would inform Members of the candidature of the incumbent Director-General in order that they may take this into consideration in submitting their nominations.

The General Council took note of the statement.

15. Appointment of officers to WTO bodies (WT/GC/M/113, 115, 117)

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the Chairman said that in accordance with the Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies (WT/L/510), he and his colleagues, Mr. Gosper (Australia), the serving Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body, and Mr. Glenne (Norway), the former Chair of the General Council, had conducted consultations with delegations on a slate of

¹¹ The communication from the Chair to Members was circulated on 4 November as letter reference 8473.

names for the appointment of Chairs to the bodies listed in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the Annex to the Guidelines.

On the basis of these consultations, he considered that there was a consensus on the following slate of names:

General Council	Mr Bruce GOSPER (Australia)
Dispute Settlement Body	Mr Mario MATUS (Chile)
Trade Policy Review Body	Mr Yonov Frederick AGAH (Nigeria)
Council for Trade in Goods	Ms Karen TAN (Singapore)
Council for Trade in Services	Mr Alex VAN MEEUWEN (Belgium)
Council for TRIPS	Ms Gail Marie MATHURIN (Jamaica)
Committee on Trade and Development	Mr Shree Baboo Chekitan SERVANSING (Mauritius)
Committee on Balance-of- Payments Restrictions	Mr Arsene M. BALIHUTA (Uganda)
Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	Mr Tony LYNCH (New Zealand)
Committee on Trade and Environment	Dr Wieslaw KARSZ (Poland)
Committee on Regional Trade Agreements	Mr Detlev BRAUNS (Germany)
Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance	Mr Martin GLASS (Hong Kong, China)
Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology	Mr Kwabena BAAH-DUODU (Ghana)

Since the proposal to appoint Mr Matus (Chile) as Chairman of the DSB had resulted in a vacancy in the chairmanship of the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment – and in keeping with the provisions of the structure adopted by the TNC at its first meeting, namely that the General Council Chair should consult on the chairmanships of the individual negotiating bodies under the TNC – his colleagues and he had used this opportunity also to consult delegations regarding this appointment. On the basis of these consultations, there was a consensus on the appointment of Mr Teehankee (Philippines) to this post. With regard to the duration of this appointment, he proposed that in keeping with the terms of office for appointments to the other negotiating groups agreed by the General Council in February 2006, Mr Teehankee be invited to serve until the next Session of the Ministerial Conference.

The General Council took note of the statement and of the consensus on the slate of names for the appointment of officers.

The Chairman then spoke, and made a statement on the request and behalf of the Chairs of the Council for Trade in Goods and the Council for Trade in Services in their absence.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At its meeting on 31 July 2008, the Chairman informed the General Council, on the basis of consultations, that there was a consensus on the appointment of Mr Francis (Trinidad and Tobago) as Chair of the TRIPS Council to replace Ms Mathurin (Jamaica), who would shortly be leaving her post.

He also informed the General Council that, in keeping with the agreement reached by the TNC at its first meeting in January and February 2002 regarding the appointment of Chairs of the TNC and of the bodies established by it – that the General Council Chair should consult on the chairmanships of the individual negotiating bodies under the TNC – he would be starting consultations regarding the appointment of successors to Mr. Stephenson (Canada), Chair of the Negotiating Group on NAMA, and Mr Ahmad (Pakistan), Chair of the Special Session of the Council for TRIPS, who would also shortly be leaving their posts.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.

At the General Council meeting on 18 December 2008, the Chairman announced, pursuant to paragraph 7.1(a) of the Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies (WT/L/510), that he would be starting the selection process for the appointment of chairpersons to the bodies outlined in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Annex to the Guidelines. In accordance with paragraph 7.1(b) of the Guidelines, he would be assisted in the selection process by the serving Chair of the DSB, Mr Matus (Chile), and by the former General Council Chair, Mr Noor (Malaysia). In keeping with paragraph 7.1(d), he and his colleagues would communicate, as early as possible, a specified time-period in which they would be available to hear the views and suggestions of Members, individually and/or in groups. He recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 2.1 of the Guidelines, representatives of Members in financial arrears for over one full year could not be considered for appointment.

The General Council took note of the statement.

16. Review of WTO activities (WT/GC/M/117)

At its meeting on 18 December 2008, the General Council considered annual reports for 2008 from WTO bodies that had been drawn up in pursuance of the Decision concerning procedures for an annual overview of WTO activities and for reporting under the WTO (WT/L/105).

The Chairman of the Committee on Government Procurement, the Chairman and the representative of Chinese Taipei spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements, adopted the report of the Committee on Trade and Development (WT/COMTD/69), and took note of the reports of the other WTO bodies, including the reports of the bodies under the Plurilateral Trade Agreements, in documents WT/DSB/47 and Add.1, WT/TPR/232, G/L/876, S/C/30, IP/C/51, WT/CTE/15, WT/BOP/R/90, WT/BFA/108, WT/REG/19, WT/WGTDF/7, WT/WGTTT/10, GPA/95 and WT/L/743.

The General Council then adopted the draft annual report for 2008 of the General Council (WT/GC/W/595), on the understanding that the Secretariat would make the necessary adjustments to it so as to include matters considered at that meeting.

17. Election of Chairperson (WT/GC/M/113)

At the General Council meeting on 5-6 February 2008, the Chairman, as the outgoing presiding officer of the General Council, made a brief statement.

The General Council then unanimously elected Mr Bruce Gosper (Australia) to the Chair.

The representatives of Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the African Group), Costa Rica (on behalf of GRULAC), Sri Lanka (on behalf of the Informal Group of Developing Countries), United States Japan, Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN Members), China, European Communities, Jamaica (on behalf of the ACP Group) and Chinese Taipei, and the Director-General and the newly-elected Chairman spoke.

The General Council took note of the statements.
