



GENERAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT (2015)

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).

Since its previous annual report¹, the General Council has held five meetings, on 20 February, 5 May, 27-28 July, 8 October and 30 November, reconvened on 7 December 2015. The minutes of these meetings, which remain in the record of the General Council's work, are contained in documents WT/GC/M/156, WT/GC/M/157, WT/GC/M/158, WT/GC/M/159 and WT/GC/M/160².

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¹ The annual report of the General Council for 2014 was circulated in WT/GC/167.

² WT/GC/M/160 will subsequently be issued.

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1 TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; AND WT/GC/M/160)

1.1. 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 in 2002 (TN/C/M/1), the TNC reports to each regular meeting of the General Council.

1.2. At the General Council meetings in February, May, July, October, and the reconvened meeting on 7 December the Director-General, as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, reported on each occasion on the TNC's activities since his previous report to the General Council.³

1.3. At the February meeting, the representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group); Burkina Faso (on behalf of the C-4); Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs Group); Brazil; the United States; Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Barbados (on behalf of the ACP Group); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); the European Union; China; Nigeria; Republic of Korea; Cuba; India; Japan; and Paraguay spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.4. At the May meeting, the representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group); Chile; and Chinese Taipei spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.5. At the July meeting, H.E. Amina Mohamed (Kenya), Chairperson of the Tenth Ministerial Conference, addressed the General Council, following which the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the G-33); Tonga; Barbados (on behalf of the ACP Group); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Sierra Leone; and Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group) spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.6. At the October meeting, the representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group); Kenya; Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group); Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Australia (also on behalf of the Cairns Group); Barbados (on behalf of the ACP Group); Indonesia (on behalf of the G-33); Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs Group); Honduras (on behalf of the IGDC); Mali (on behalf of the C-4); Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); Egypt; Brazil; South Africa; Jamaica (on behalf of the CARICOM); the European Union; Morocco; China; Uganda; India; Japan; Dominica (on behalf of the OECS); Qatar (on behalf of the GCC); Costa Rica; Pakistan; Colombia; Uruguay; the Russian Federation; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the ALBA); Republic of Korea; Tanzania; Hong Kong, China; Nigeria; Argentina; Singapore; Thailand; Switzerland; the United States; Sri Lanka; Norway; Montenegro; and Mexico spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

1.7. At the reconvened meeting on 7 December, the representative of Barbados⁴, on behalf of the ACP Group, and Switzerland⁵ spoke.

³ The Director-General's statements were subsequently circulated as JOB/GC/74, JOB/GC/77, JOB/GC/81, JOB/GC/83 and JOB/GC/89, respectively.

⁴ Barbados presented two proposals, contained in WT/GC/W/709 – TN/C/W/70 – TN/AG/W/10 – TN/MA/W/143 – TN/S/W/62 and WT/GC/W/710 – TN/C/W/71 – WT/COMTD/W/215, respectively.

⁵ Switzerland introduced a joint communication of a group of 29 developed and developing Members in WT/MIN(15)/10 – WT/GC/176.

1.8. The Director-General reported on the activities of the TNC, particularly with respect to the potential deliverables for MC10 and to the work on the Ministerial Declaration for Nairobi. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report; of the fact that work on the Nairobi deliverables and on a draft text of the Ministerial Declaration would be continuing in the following days and that any result from their work would be in front of the Ministers in Nairobi; and of the statements.

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALI OUTCOMES – STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; AND WT/GC/M/160)

2.1. Since July 2014, the item on implementation of the Bali outcomes has been included on the General Council's agenda at the request of the Chairman, to provide an update on the work taking place in the regular bodies which were directly working on the various Bali Decisions.

2.2. At the General Council meetings in February, May, July, October and November, the Chairman reported on the work taking place in WTO regular bodies to fulfil the Bali Ministerial mandates.⁶

2.3. At the February meeting, the General Council took note of the Chairman's report.

2.4. At the May meeting, the representatives of Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group); the European Union; and Uganda spoke. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report and of the statements.

2.5. At the July meeting, the representatives of Tonga; China; Republic of Korea; the European Union; Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group); the United States; Thailand; and Montenegro spoke. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report and of the statements.

2.6. At the October meeting, the representatives of Thailand, India and Montenegro spoke. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report and of the statements.

2.7. At the November meeting, the Director-General made a statement on the EIF pledging conference that would take place in Nairobi on 14 December. The General Council took note of the Chairman's report and of the Director-General's statement.

3 PROTOCOL AMENDING THE TRIPS AGREEMENT – UPDATE ON STATUS (WT/GC/M/156)

3.1. At the February meeting, the Director-General urged Members who had not yet accepted the amendment to do so. Twenty-seven more acceptances were needed for the amendment to come into force. The representatives of the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Canada; and the United States spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's statement and of the other statements.

4 WORK PROGRAMME ON SMALL ECONOMIES – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; AND WT/GC/M/160)

4.1. In 2002, the General Council took note of a framework and procedures for the conduct of the Work Programme on Small Economies, which had been agreed by Ministers at Doha (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paragraph 35), under which this Work Programme would be a standing item on the General Council's agenda and which also provided that the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) would report regularly to the General Council on the progress of work in its Dedicated Sessions on this subject. In December 2013, Ministers at MC9 adopted the Decision on the Work Programme on Small Economies (WT/L/908), which reaffirmed their commitment to the Work Programme and further instructed the CTD to continue its work in Dedicated Sessions under the overall responsibility of the General Council.

⁶ The Chairman's statements were subsequently circulated as JOB/GC/75, JOB/GC/78, JOB/GC/82, JOB/GC/84 and JOB/GC/88, respectively.

4.2. At the February meeting, the Chairman, on behalf of the CTD Chairperson, reported that the Secretariat was currently carrying out a background research on the challenges and opportunities experienced by small economies when linking into global value chains. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) and the European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

4.3. At the May meeting, the Chairman, on behalf of the CTD Chairperson, reported on the Secretariat's finished background paper on the "Challenges and Opportunities Experienced by Small Economies when Linking into Global Value Chains in Trade in Goods and Services" in WT/COMTD/SE/W/31. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) and the European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

4.4. At the July meeting, the CTD Chairperson recalled that the Secretariat had prepared a background analysis in WT/COMTD/SE/W/31. This report and its findings had been taken up by Members in a dedicated discussion on 5 June. The SVEs had begun the process of identifying the topics from the report they would like to explore in further detail. The representative of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statement.

4.5. At the October meeting, the CTD Chairperson reported that Members were set to explore in further detail the background analysis prepared by the Secretariat on the challenges and opportunities experienced by small economies when linking into global value chains in WT/COMTD/SE/W/31. The representatives of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) and Dominica (on behalf of the OECS) spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

4.6. At the November meeting, the CTD Chairperson said that Members had continued to discuss the WTO Secretariat paper in WT/COMTD/SE/W/31, a revised compilation paper of proposals by the SVEs in document WT/COMTD/SE/W/22/Rev.7 and their report to the General Council (WT/COMTD/SE/9) which included a section on "Future Work" and recommendations for Ministers. The representative of Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) spoke. The General Council agreed to forward the recommendations contained in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of WT/COMTD/SE/9 to MC10 for Ministers' Decision⁷ and took note of the report and of the statements.

5 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE – REVIEW OF PROGRESS (WT/GC/M/158)

5.1. In line with the Declaration on Global Electronic Commerce adopted by Ministers at the second session of the Ministerial Conference (WT/MIN(98)/DEC/2), in September 1998, the General Council adopted a Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WT/L/274). At MC9, Ministers adopted a Decision on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WT/L/907) which instructed the General Council to hold periodic reviews based on the reports submitted by the WTO bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Work Programme, namely – the Councils for Services, Goods and TRIPS and the Committee on Trade and Development.

5.2. At the July meeting, Ambassador Suescum (Panama), as the Friend of the Chair, provided an overview of the work taking place on the work programme on e-commerce. His report can be found in document WT/GC/W/701. The Chairman drew attention to the reports on the work programme on e-commerce submitted by the Chairs of the Council for Trade in Services (S/C/47) and the Goods Council (G/C/56). The representatives of the United States; the Russian Federation; China; India; and the European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the reports and of the statements.

6 AID FOR TRADE – REPORTS (WT/GC/M/158)

6.1. At the July meeting, the Director-General provided a report on the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade, which had taken place on 30 June to 2 July with the theme "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth". He pointed out that the Aid for Trade initiative was already having a tangible effect on trade costs and connectivity and that the implementation of the Bali Package promised further substantive and measurable impacts in this area. The representatives of

⁷ The draft decision was subsequently circulated in document WT/MIN(15)/W/24.

Sierra Leone; the European Union; and Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs) spoke. The General Council took note of the Director-General's report and of the statements.

7 THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ASPECTS OF COTTON - PERIODIC REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (WT/GC/W/160)

7.1. In Paragraph 1.b of the 1 August 2004 Decision on the Doha Work Programme (WT/L/579), the General Council, *inter alia*, took note of the bilateral, multilateral, and regional efforts to make progress on the development assistance aspects of the Cotton Initiative, and 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 had vital importance. The Bali Decision on Cotton (WT/L/916 – WT/MIN(13)/41) reaffirmed this mandate, and invited the Director-General to continue to provide periodic reports on this matter.

7.2. At the November meeting, Deputy Director-General David Shark, on behalf of the Director-General, introduced the Seventh Periodic Report on the Developmental Assistance aspects of Cotton (WT/GC/175 – WT/CFMC/DG/7 – WT/MIN(15)/8). The General Council took note of the statement and of the Director-General's report, which would be before Ministers at the Tenth Ministerial Conference.

8 TRIPS COUNCIL MATTERS

8.1 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/160); and,

8.2 Proposal for a Decision on an Extension of the Period for the Acceptance by Members of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement (WT/GC/M/160)

8.1. 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. 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 addition, in keeping with the August 2003 Decision, the General Council adopted, in December 2005, a Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, which was submitted to Members for acceptance and which, in accordance with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement, would enter into force upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members. The TRIPS Council at its meeting in October 2015 agreed to submit to the General Council a proposal for a decision on a fifth extension of the period for the acceptance by Members of this Protocol.

8.2. At the November meeting, the Chairman of the TRIPS Council introduced the report of the Council (IP/C/72) on its annual review of the Decision on the Implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, as well as a proposal for a Decision on a Fifth Extension of the Period for the Acceptance by Members of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement (IP/C/70).

8.3. The General Council took note of the report of the TRIPS Council in document IP/C/72, and adopted the draft decision extending the time period for acceptance by Members of the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement to 31 December 2015 (WT/L/965).

9 ACCESSION MATTERS

9.1 Kazakhstan (WT/GC/M/158)

9.1. At its July meeting, the General Council considered the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan (WT/ACC/KAZ/93 and WT/ACC/KAZ/93/Add.1 and WT/ACC/KAZ/93/Add.2). The Chairperson of the Working Party spoke. The General Council approved the text of the Protocol of Accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan 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 the Republic of Kazakhstan (WT/L/957). The General Council then adopted the Report of the Working Party as a whole (WT/ACC/KAZ/93 and Addenda 1 and 2).

9.2. The Chairman; H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; and the Director-General spoke, following which H.E. Ms Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; the representatives of the Russian Federation; the United States; the European Union; China; Ukraine; Japan; Brazil; India; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group); Turkey; Mexico; Uruguay; Uganda; Tanzania; Chinese Taipei (on behalf of the RAMs Group); Oman; Republic of Korea; Switzerland; Norway; the Solomon Islands (on behalf of the Pacific WTO Group, Australia and New Zealand); the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the GRULAC); Malaysia (on behalf of the ASEAN); Pakistan; Bangladesh (on behalf of the LDC Group); Ecuador; Georgia; Colombia; the Kyrgyz Republic; Cuba; Paraguay (on behalf of the LLDCs); Tajikistan; Argentina; Guatemala; Hong Kong, China; Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); Morocco; Sierra Leone; Israel; Jordan; Canada; and El Salvador; and H.E. Minister Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Liberia, intervening as an Observer, spoke. The General Council took note of the statements and of the expressions of welcome and support.

9.2 2015 Annual Report by the Director-General (WT/GC/M/160)

9.3. At the November meeting, Deputy Director-General Shark, on behalf of the Director-General, introduced the 2015 Annual Report on WTO Accessions (WT/ACC/25 – WT/GC/174 – WT/MIN(15)/7).

9.4. The representatives of Kazakhstan; Yemen; the European Union and Montenegro spoke. The General Council took note of the statements and of the Director-General's report, which would be before Ministers at the Tenth Session of the Ministerial Conference.

10 TENTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

10.1 Election of Officers (WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158 and WT/GC/M/160)

10.1. At the May meeting, the General Council agreed to elect H.E. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, to be the Chairperson of the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference.

10.2. At the July meeting, the General Council agreed to elect H.E. Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Chile); H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry (Philippines); and, H.E. Carlo Calenda, Member of the Italian Cabinet of Ministers, in charge of Trade and Investment (Italy), to be the Vice Chairpersons for the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference.

10.3. At the November meeting, the Chairman recalled that he had sent a fax on 23 November to inform Members that H.E. Heraldo Muñoz, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Chile), would not be able to participate at the Conference. Following consultations, he proposed that H.E. Alexander Mora, Minister of Foreign Trade (Costa Rica), be appointed as a Vice-Chair for MC10. The General Council so agreed.

10.2 Attendance of Observers from Governments and International Intergovernmental Organizations (WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159 and WT/GC/M/160)

10.4. At the May meeting, the General Council agreed to repeat past practice with respect to the attendance of observer governments which was to invite the Governments with observer status at MC9 to attend MC10. On the attendance of IGO's, the Chairman said that more time was needed for delegations to consider this matter and proposed to continue his consultations. The General Council took note of the statement.

10.5. At the July meeting, the Chairman said he would continue his consultations in various configurations on this matter after the summer break. He called on delegations to work together

with a constructive spirit to address this matter. The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

10.6. At the October meeting, the Chairman reported on his consultations on this matter. He also drew attention to the request of Palestine for Observer status at MC10, circulated in document WT/L/960. He said he would undertake consultations on those matters and revert to them during the next General Council meeting. The representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group) and Honduras (on behalf of the IGDC) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

10.7. At the November meeting, the Chairman reported that he had continued to conduct consultations and that views continued to diverge as to how to address the matter, and that the positions previously expressed by delegations had not changed. There was therefore still no consensus regarding the attendance of Observer International Intergovernmental Organizations at MC10. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group); the Russian Federation; and the Plurinational State of Bolivia spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

10.3 Attendance of Non-Governmental Organizations (WT/GC/M/157)

10.8. At the May meeting, the Chairman recalled that for all previous Ministerial Conferences, attendance of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) had been governed by a procedure which had been agreed by the General Council in July 1996. The General Council agreed to follow the procedure, with a deadline for registration fixed at 13 November 2015 and to let the Secretariat to circulate the list of registered NGOs to all Members once the registration procedure was finalized. This procedure was as follows:

- a. a limited number of accredited NGO representatives were allowed to attend only the Plenary Sessions of the Conference, without the right to speak;
- b. applications from NGOs to be registered were accepted on the basis of Article V, paragraph 2 of the WTO Agreement, i.e. NGOs "concerned with matters related to those of the WTO"; and
- c. a deadline was established for the registration of NGOs that wished to attend the Conference.

10.4 Request for Observer Status by Palestine to the Tenth Session of the Ministerial Conference (WT/GC/M/160)

10.9. At the November meeting, the Chairman proposed that, on the basis of his consultations, the General Council agree to grant Palestine Observer Status for MC10 on an *ad hoc* basis. The General Council took note of the statement and so agreed.

10.5 Progress Report on Logistical Preparations (WT/GC/M/157)

10.10. At the May meeting, the Chairman of the MC10 Task Force reported on the progress on the logistical preparation for MC10 including the contents of the Information Notes in documents WT/MIN(15)/INF/1, WT/MIN(15)/INF/2, WT/MIN(15)/INF/3 and WT/MIN(15)/INF/4. He also highlighted the need to contribute to the special Trust Fund for LDC participation at MC10.

10.11. The Director-General and the representatives of Kenya; the European Union; Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group); the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group); and Tanzania spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements.

10.6 Launch of the Logo of the Tenth Session of the Ministerial Conference (WT/GC/M/157)

10.12. At the May meeting, the Director-General launched the official logo for the Tenth Ministerial Conference. The representative of Kenya spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

10.7 Statement by the Chairman (WT/GC/M/160)

10.13. At the November meeting, the Chairman recalled that, as a matter of course and in line with its Rules of Procedure, MC10 should take up two issues related to the organization of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference: the date and venue of MC11 and the election of officers for that Conference. The Chairman proposed that, as in the past, Ministers refer these issues to the General Council for it to hold consultations on them when appropriate.

10.14. In line with past practice and in relation to item 1 of the Agenda undertaking an Overview of WTO activities, the Chairman said that he would present the Annual Reports from the General Council and its subsidiary bodies to Ministers in his statement at the Opening Session of the Ministerial Conference.

10.15. On the Programme of the Conference, he announced that the MC10 would be opened on 15 December at 3 p.m. by the President of the Republic of Kenya. The first plenary session would be held on 16 December starting at 9:30 a.m. and would continue over the following days. As in the past, the Plenary Session would provide Ministers with the opportunity to make prepared statements in accordance with the List of Speakers. Statements in the Plenary Sessions would be limited to three minutes. The two Accessions Sessions – of the Republic of Liberia and of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – would be held in the afternoon of 16 and 17 December respectively. The Closing Session would take place on 18 December.

10.16. The Chairman then drew attention to the draft Decisions on TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints and on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce in documents IP/C/71/Add1 and Corr.1 and WT/GC/W/712 respectively. He proposed that the General Council agree to forward the draft texts for decision to the Ministerial Conference.⁸ The General Council took note of the Chairman's statement and so agreed.

11 COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

11.1 Reports and Recommendations (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; and WT/GC/M/160)

11.1. At the February meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in February (WT/BFA/147). The General Council took note of the statement of the Chairperson of the Budget Committee, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 1.4 and 2.4 of the report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/147.

11.2. At the May meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in March (WT/BFA/148). The General Council took note of the statement, and adopted the report in WT/BFA/148.

11.3. At the July meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in June (WT/BFA/149). The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 1.2 and 8.8 of its report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/149.

11.4. At the October meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in September (WT/BFA/150). The General Council took note of the statement, and adopted the report in WT/BFA/150.

11.5. At the November meeting, the General Council considered reports by the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration on its meeting in November (WT/BFA/151). The General Council took note of the statement, approved the Budget Committee's specific recommendations in paragraphs 1.6 to 1.12 (b), 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 7.3 of the report and adopted the report in WT/BFA/151.

⁸ The draft decisions were subsequently circulated in document WT/MIN(15)/W/25 for TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints and in document WT/MIN(15)/W/26 for the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce.

12 COMMITTEE ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS RESTRICTIONS

12.1 Consultations with Ukraine (WT/GC/M/158)

12.1. At the July meeting, the BOP Committee had noted that it had not been possible to reach consensus on the measure adopted by Ukraine and had thus decided to conclude the consultations. The General Council took note of the statement of the Chairperson of the BOP Committee and adopted the report on the consultations with Ukraine in document WT/BOP/R/110.

13 REVIEW OF THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE GATT 1994 (WT/GC/M/156 AND WT/GC/M/160)

13.1. Paragraph 3(a) of GATT 1994 provides an exemption from Part II of GATT 1994 for measures under specific mandatory legislation – enacted by a Member before it became a Contracting Party to GATT 1947 – which prohibited the use, sale or lease of foreign-built or foreign-reconstructed vessels in commercial applications between points in national waters or waters of an exclusive economic zone. On 20 December 1994, the United States invoked the provisions of Paragraph 3(a) with respect to specific legislation that met the requirements of that paragraph. Paragraph 3(b) of GATT 1994 calls for a review of this exemption five years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement – and thereafter every two years for as long as the exemption was in force – in order to examine whether the conditions which had created the need for the exemption still prevailed. The General Council last considered this matter at its meeting in November 2013 at which it had taken note that under the two-year cycle in Paragraph 3(b) of GATT 1994, the next review would be held in 2015.

13.2. At the February meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the annual report circulated by the United States in document WT/L/948. As for the conduct of the review in 2015, he proposed that the Council proceed in a manner similar to that in 2013, which had been based on a procedure agreed by the General Council in December 2002. Therefore, the statements, questions and responses from all interested delegations together with the annual statistical report provided by the US under Paragraph 3(c) of GATT 1994, would form the basis for the current year's review. This matter would be on the Agenda of subsequent General Council meetings in the course of 2015 as the Chair deemed appropriate, or at the request of any Member. The Council would consider this matter again at its last meeting for the year, and the subsequent review would normally be held in 2017. He also noted that, as provided in paragraph 3(e) of GATT 1994, the exemption was without prejudice to solutions concerning specific aspects of the legislation covered by this exemption negotiated in sectoral agreements or in other fora.

13.3. The representatives of the European Union; Japan; Norway; Republic of Korea; China; Canada; Australia; Hong Kong, China; Chinese Taipei; and the United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements and agreed to revert to this item at a future meeting.

13.4. At the November meeting, the General Council again considered the exemption provided under paragraph 3 of GATT 1994 for review. The representatives of Norway; Japan; the European Union; China; Korea; Hong Kong, China; Australia; Canada and the United States spoke. The General Council took note of the statements and also took note that the subsequent review under the two-yearly cycle provided in paragraph 3(b) of GATT 1994 would normally be held in 2017.

14 WAIVERS UNDER ARTICLE IX OF THE WTO AGREEMENT

14.1 Jordan – Request for a Waiver relating to the Transitional Period for the Elimination of the Export Subsidy Programme for Jordan (WT/GC/M/156)

14.1. At the February meeting, the Chairperson of the Goods Council, in accordance with Article IX:3 of the WTO Agreement, reported that the Council for Trade in Goods had not completed the consideration of Jordan's request for a waiver relating to the Transitional Period for the Elimination of the Export Subsidy Programme for Jordan. The General Council agreed to allow the Goods Council to continue to consider Jordan's request.

14.2 United States – Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA as amended) – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/157)

14.2. At the May meeting, the General Council considered a draft decision in document G/C/W/708 which concerned the request for a waiver by the United States on the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act. The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft decision by that Council. The representatives of the United States; Jamaica (on behalf of the CARICOM); Haiti; Barbados; Trinidad and Tobago; and Dominica (on behalf of the OECS) spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements 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/950).

14.3 Canada – Extension of the Waiver for the Caribbean Initiative: CARIBCAN – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/158)

14.3. At the July meeting, the General Council considered a draft decision in document G/C/W/710 which concerned the request for a waiver by Canada on the Extension of the Waiver for the Caribbean Initiative: CARIBCAN. The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on the consideration of the draft decision by that Council. The representatives of Canada; Jamaica (on behalf of the CARICOM); and Grenada (on behalf of the OECS) spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements 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/958).

14.4 Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007 and 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/160)

14.4. At the November meeting, the General Council considered three draft waiver decisions, contained in G/C/W/715, G/C/W/716/Rev.1 and G/C/W/717 which concerned the Introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007 and 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions, respectively. The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on consideration of this matter 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 three draft Decisions (WT/L/967, WT/L/968 and WT/L/969).

14.5 United States – African Growth Opportunity Act – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/160)

14.5. At the November meeting, the General Council considered a draft waiver decision by the United States contained in document G/C/W/713. The Chairman of the Council for Trade in Goods reported on consideration of this matter by that Council. The representative of Bangladesh spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statement 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 draft Decision (WT/L/970).

14.6 Least-developed country Members – Obligations under Article 70.8 and Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to Pharmaceutical Products – Draft Decision (WT/GC/M/160)

14.6. At the November meeting, the General Council considered a draft waiver decision contained in document IP/C/74. The General Council Chairman, on behalf of the TRIPS Council Chairperson, reported on the consideration of this matter by that Council. The representatives of Bangladesh and Uganda spoke. The General Council took note of the report and of the statements 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 draft Decision (WT/L/971).

14.7 Review of Waivers Pursuant to Article IX:4 of the WTO Agreement (WT/GC/M/158 and WT/GC/M/160)

14.7. 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."

14.8. At the July meeting, the General Council considered the following waivers for review under Article IX:4:

- i. LDCs — Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to Pharmaceutical Products, granted on 8 July 2002 until 1 January 2016 (WT/L/478)
- ii. Preferential Treatment for Least-Developed Countries, granted on 27 May 2009 until 30 June 2019 (WT/L/759)
- iii. United States — Former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, granted on 27 July 2007 until 31 December 2016 (WT/L/694, WT/L/954)
- iv. United States — African Growth and Opportunity Act, granted on 27 May 2009 until 30 September 2015 (WT/L/754, WT/L/955)
- v. Philippines — Special Treatment for Rice (WT/L/932)

14.9. In doing so, the General Council considered reports on implementation of the respective waivers in documents WT/L/954 and WT/L/955. The representative of the United States spoke. The General Council took note of the reports, and of the statement, and reverted to the review of multi-year waivers under Article IX.4 of the WTO Agreement at its last regular meeting in 2015.

14.10. At the November meeting, the General Council considered the following waivers for review under Article IX:4:

- i. Preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of least developed countries, granted on 17 December 2011 until 17 December 2026 (WT/L/847)
- ii. Kimberley process certification scheme for rough diamonds, granted on 12 December 2012 until 31 December 2018 (WT/L/876)
- iii. European Union – Application of autonomous preferential treatment to the West Balkans, Granted on 30 November 2011 until 31 December 2016 (WT/L/836, WT/L/962)
- iv. Cuba – Article XV:6 of GATT 1994, Extension of waiver, granted on 14 February 2012 until 31 December 2016 (WT/L/850, WT/L/964)

14.11. In doing so, the General Council considered reports on implementation of the respective waivers in documents WT/L/962 (European Union) and WT/L/964 (Cuba). The General Council took note of the reports and of the Chairman's statement.

15 DERESTRICTION OF HISTORICAL BILATERAL NEGOTIATING DOCUMENTS OF THE TOKYO ROUND – DRAFT DECISION (WT/GC/M/160)

15.1. At the November meeting, the Chairman drew the Council's attention to the Draft Decision on the Derestriction of Historical Bilateral Negotiating Documentation of the Tokyo Round contained in document G/MA/W/115/Rev.1. He said that the decision was forwarded to the General Council by the Committee on Market Access through the Council for Trade in Goods following its meeting on 10 November. He proposed that the General Council adopt the draft. The General Council so agreed.⁹

⁹ The decision can be found in document WT/L/966.

16 IMPROVING THE GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS IN THE WTO (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; AND WT/GC/M/158)

16.1. In November 2011, the General Council agreed that the Chairperson of the General Council start a process of consultations on improving the guidelines for granting observer status to Intergovernmental Organizations in the WTO, following a communication by the Arab Group in document WT/GC/W/643, which was then supplemented by a further communication in document WT/GC/W/654.

16.2. At the February meeting, the Chairman urged continued engagement from all Members to address this issue, in a constructive manner and with a solution-finding spirit – and particularly looking ahead at MC10. He said he would brief his successor so that he could consider how to address this matter. The representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group) and the Russian Federation spoke. The General Council took note of statements.

16.3. At the May meeting, the Chairman noted that he would continue to seek delegations' views, and would report to the General Council as appropriate. He intended to work with an open mind and constructive spirit, and urged all delegations to do the same. The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

16.4. At the July meeting, the Chairman said that he intended to continue his consultations with Members and report back to the General Council as appropriate. The representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Arab Group) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

17 FOSTERING PARTICIPATION OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN GLOBAL MARKETS**17.1 Statement by the Philippines (WT/GC/M/158)**

17.1. At the July meeting, the Philippines made a statement on Fostering Participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Global Markets circulated in document JOB/GC/80. The representatives of Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN) and Grenada (on behalf of the OECS) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

17.2 Communication from Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore (WT/GC/M/159 and WT/GC/M/160)

17.2. At the October meeting, the Philippines drew attention to its proposal on Fostering the Participation of MSMEs in Regional and Global Markets co-sponsored by Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR and Malaysia, in documents WT/GC/W/702 and WT/GC/W/702/Add.1 calling for the inclusion in the outcome documents of MC10 in Nairobi of a statement on this matter. The representatives of Singapore (on behalf of the ASEAN); Malaysia; Guatemala (on behalf of the SVEs); South Africa; El Salvador; Chile; India; Dominican Republic (on behalf of the IGDC); Dominica (on behalf of the OECS); the United States; Nigeria; the European Union; Kenya and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

17.3. At the November meeting, the Philippines drew the Council's attention to its revised proposal co-sponsored by Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Singapore in documents WT/GC/W/708 and WT/GC/W/708/Add.1 including a proposed draft Ministerial Decision on the matter. The representatives of Chile; Turkey; Kenya; India; South Africa; the European Union; the United States; El Salvador; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Guatemala; Japan; Cuba; Mexico; the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Pakistan; Brazil; Nigeria; Moldova; Australia; Canada; Korea; and the Philippines spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

18 MEETING IN MARRAKESH ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WTO – STATEMENT BY MOROCCO (WT/GC/M/157)

18.1. At the May meeting, the General Council heard a statement by Morocco on a recent Conference in Marrakesh to commemorate the WTO 20th Anniversary. The General Council took note of the statement.

19 ITA EXPANSION– STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION (WT/GC/M/158)

19.1. At the July meeting, the European Union announced the successful conclusion of the negotiations on ITA Expansion, as far as the coverage was concerned. The Director-General and the representative of Japan spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

20 STATEMENTS DAMAGING TO THE REPUTATION OF SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRES IN SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTRARY TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES – STATEMENT BY BARBADOS (WT/GC/M/158)

20.1. At the July meeting, Barbados raised the issue of statements damaging to the reputation of several international financial centres in small developing countries contrary to the assessment of the responsible authorities. The representatives of Jamaica (on behalf of the CARICOM), Panama, Vanuatu and the European Union spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

21 WTO YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME (WT/GC/M/156)

21.1. At the February meeting, the Director-General introduced the proposal for a WTO Young Professionals Programme in the WTO. The objective of the Programme was to enhance the knowledge and skills of young professionals from eligible participating Members on WTO issues. The General Council took note of the Director-General's statement.

22 MERCI GENÈVE – OPEN DAY (WT/GC/M/156)

22.1. At the February meeting, the Director-General made a statement on plans to organize an Open Day titled "Merci Genève". The General Council took note of the statement.

23 ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES FOR MEMBERS IN ARREARS (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; AND WT/GC/M/160)

23.1. In October 2012, the General Council approved a recommendation from the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration regarding revised Administrative Measures for Members in arrears, as contained in WT/BFA/132, Annex I. These new revised Measures entered into force on 1 January 2013. These Measures required that at the end of each meeting of the General Council, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration should provide information with regard to which Members and Observers were under Administrative Measures; and, the General Council Chairperson would request Members and Observers in Categories II and III to inform the Secretariat as to when the payment of arrears might be expected.

23.2. At the General Council meetings in February, May, July, October, and November, the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration provided information with regard to which Members were under Administrative Measures. The General Council took note of the statements.

24 WTO PENSION PLAN**24.1 Election of Chairperson, Members, and Alternates to the Management Board (WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; and WT/GC/M/160)**

24.1. Article 4(a) of the Regulations of the WTO Pension Plan provides, *inter alia*, for the election by the General Council of a Chairperson, four members and four alternates to the Management Board of the Pension Plan, each for a three-year term.

24.2. At the May meeting, the Chairman proposed that the General Council elect Mr Johannes Rühl (Switzerland) to serve as Chairman on the Board for the remainder of the term, i.e. until May 2017. The General Council so agreed.¹⁰

24.3. At the July meeting, the Chairman proposed that the General Council elect Ms Junko Ueno (Japan) and Mr Andrew Staines (United Kingdom) to serve as alternates on the Management Board for the remainder of the terms of their respective predecessors, i.e. until 2017. The General Council so agreed.¹¹

24.4. At the October meeting, the Chairman proposed that the General Council elect Ms Eunice Huang (Singapore) to serve as an alternate on the Management Board for the remainder of the term of her predecessor, i.e. until May 2017. The General Council so agreed.¹²

24.5. At the November meeting, the Chairman proposed that the General Council elect Mr Christopher Wilson (United States) to serve as an alternate on the Management Board for the remainder of the term of his predecessor, i.e. until May 2017. The General Council so agreed.¹³

24.2 Reports (WT/GC/M/158)

24.6. At the July meeting, the Chairperson of the Management Board of the WTO Pension Plan introduced the Annual Report of the Management Board for 2014 contained in document WT/L/952, and the Report of the Independent External Auditor on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the WTOPP in document WT/L/953. The General Council took note of the Annual Report of the Management Board for 2014, the Report of the Independent External Auditor on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the WTOPP, and the WTOPP Chairperson's statement.

24.3 Amendment to the Regulations (WT/GC/M/160)

24.7. At the November meeting, the General Council approved the amendment to the WTO Pension Plan Regulations as set out in document WT/GC/W/706.

25 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE UNCTAD/WTO (WT/GC/M/160)

25.1. At the November meeting, the General Council considered a report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its Forty-Ninth Session (ITC/AG(XLIX)/260), which had been considered initially by the Committee on Trade and Development at its meeting on 13 November where it had been presented by the Chairperson of the Joint Advisory Group, Ambassador Patricia O'Brien (Ireland). The CTD Chairperson made a statement on the Committee's consideration of the report. The General Council took note of the CTD Chairperson's statement and adopted the report of the Joint Advisory Group.

26 REVIEW OF WTO ACTIVITIES (WT/GC/M/160)

26.1. At the November meeting, the General Council considered annual reports for 2015 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 in document WT/L/105.

26.2. The General Council took note of the statement, adopted the report of the Committee on Trade and Development in document WT/COMTD/87, took note of the reports of other WTO bodies, including the reports of the bodies under the Plurilateral Trade Agreements, in documents WT/DSB/67, WT/TPR/361, G/L/1140, S/C/48, IP/C/71 and IP/C/71/Add.1, IP/C/71/Add.2 and IP/C/71/Add.2/Corr.1, WT/CTE/22, WT/BOP/R/111, WT/BFA/152, WT/REG/25, WT/WGTDF/14, WT/WGTTT/17, GPA/134 and WT/L/963, and agreed to forward the reports to the Tenth Ministerial Conference.

¹⁰ The decision can be found in document WT/L/949.

¹¹ The decision can be found in document WT/L/959.

¹² The decision can be found in document WT/L/961.

¹³ The decision can be found in document WT/L/972.

26.3. The General Council then adopted the draft Annual Report for 2015 of the General Council (WT/GC/W/705), on the understanding that the Secretariat would make the necessary adjustments to it as to include matters considered at that meeting, and agreed to forward it to the Tenth Ministerial Conference.

27 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO WTO BODIES (WT/GC/M/156; WT/GC/M/157; WT/GC/M/158; WT/GC/M/159; AND WT/GC/M/160)

27.1. At the February meeting, the Chairman recalled that in accordance with the Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies approved by the General Council in December 2002 (WT/L/510), he, together with Ambassador Fernando de Mateo (Mexico), the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, had conducted consultations with delegations on a slate of names for the appointment of Chairpersons to WTO regular bodies listed in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 in the Annex to the Guidelines. He noted that their consultations had also included the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation, as a body under the General Council that had been established by the Ninth Ministerial Conference. In undertaking the process set out in the Guidelines, they had put into effect the practical steps to improve their implementation agreed by the General Council in July 2012, and contained in JOB/GC/22.

27.2. On the basis of those consultations, there was a consensus on the following slate of names:

General Council	H.E. Mr Fernando de Mateo (Mexico)
Dispute Settlement Body	H.E. Mr Harald Neple (Norway)
Trade Policy Review Body	H.E. Mr Atanas Atanassov Papparizov (Bulgaria)
Council for Trade in Goods	H.E. Mr Héctor Casanueva (Chile)
Council for Trade in Services	H.E. Mr Martin Eyjólfsson (Iceland)
Council for TRIPS	H.E. Mr Abdolazeez Al-Otaibi (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Committee on Trade and Development	H.E. Mr Bassirou Sene (Senegal)
Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions	H.E. Mr Bertrand de Crombrugghe de Picquendaele (Belgium)
Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	H.E. Mr Daniel Blockert (Sweden)
Committee on Trade and Environment	Ms. Irene B.K. Young (Hong Kong, China)
Committee on Regional Trade Agreements	H.E. Mr Francisco Pirez (Uruguay)
Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance	H.E. Mr Xavier Carim (South Africa)
Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology	H.E. Mr Luc-Joseph Okio (Republic of Congo)

27.3. Appointments for those bodies would be for one year, in keeping with the general rule in the Guidelines. In relation to the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation, the General Council agreed on having its current Chairperson, Ambassador Esteban Conejos (Philippines), continue to Chair the PCTF. The General Council took note of the Chairman's statement and of the consensus on the slate of names for the appointment of officers. The Chairpersons of the Councils for Trade in Goods and Trade in Services; and the representatives of Chinese Taipei and Lesotho (on behalf of the African Group) spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

27.4. At the May meeting, in light of the departure of the current CTD Chairperson Ambassador Bassirou Sene (Senegal) from Geneva, the Chairman informed Members that he would undertake consultations on the appointment of a new Chairperson of the CTD, alongside consultations for the Chairperson of the CRTA as agreed in February. The General Council took note of the statement.¹⁴

27.5. At the July meeting, the Chairman informed Members that Ambassador John Adank (New Zealand), Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session, would complete his assignment in Geneva in August and would then return to New Zealand. He said that unless any delegation wished to comment at that stage, he proposed Ambassador Vangelis Vitalis (New Zealand), who was taking up his appointment in Geneva shortly, to be formally elected as the next Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session at the Committee's next meeting. The General Council took note of the statement.

27.6. At the October meeting, the Chairman announced that he had concluded consultations to appoint a new Chairperson for the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session, following the departure of Ambassador Wiboonlasana Ruamraksa (Thailand). He proposed that Ambassador Syed Tauqir Shah (Pakistan) to be formally elected as the new Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session at the Committee's next formal meeting. The General Council took note of the statement.

27.7. At the November meeting, the Chairman said that in accordance with the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers to WTO bodies in document WT/L/510 and the practical steps to improve the implementation of the Guidelines (JOB/GC/22) agreed to by the General Council in July 2012, he would be starting the selection process for the appointment of chairpersons to the WTO bodies 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 Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body, Ambassador Harald Neple (Norway) and former General Council Chairman, Ambassador Jonathan Fried (Canada). The General Council took note of the statement, which had been made pursuant to the Guidelines for the Appointment of Officers.

28 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (WT/GC/M/156)

28.1. At the February meeting, the Chairman, as the outgoing presiding officer of the General Council, made a statement. The General Council then unanimously elected H.E. Mr Fernando de Mateo (Mexico) to the Chair.

28.2. The Director-General, the newly-elected Chairman, and the representative of Tanzania spoke. The General Council took note of the statements.

¹⁴ H.E. Mr Juan Esteban Aguirre Martínez (Paraguay) and H.E. Mr Amr Ramadan (Egypt) were subsequently elected to Chair the Committee on Trade and Development and the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements, respectively.