

WORK PROGRAMME ON SMALL ECONOMIES - PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

Communication from Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago

The following communication has been received from the delegations of Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago.

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1. Paragraph 35 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (WT(MIN(01)/DEC/1) states the following:
- "We agree to a work programme, under the auspices of the General Council, to examine issues relating to the trade of small economies. The objective of this work is 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. The General Council shall review the work programme and make recommendations for action to the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference".
2. In pursuance of this mandate, our delegations propose that the Work Programme be undertaken in accordance with the following procedures and modalities:
- (a) The Work Programme shall remain under the overall responsibility of the General Council.
 - (b) The General Council shall have the Work Programme on Small Economies (WPSE) as a standing item on its agenda.
 - (c) The General Council shall instruct the CTD to have a focussed programme of work for small economies which will be conducted in dedicated sessions of the CTD.
 - (d) The CTD shall report regularly to the General Council on the progress of work in the dedicated sessions.
 - (e) The Chairperson of the regular CTD shall also be the Chair for the dedicated sessions of the CTD.
 - (f) The dedicated sessions of the CTD shall have an agreed calendar of meetings to complete the work under its mandate.

- (g) The CTD will hold as many informal meetings as necessary with a view to assisting the formal process in the dedicated sessions of the CTD.
- (h) Following focussed discussions and recommendations of the CTD, the General Council, as appropriate, shall direct relevant subsidiary bodies to frame responses and take action, in the areas of concern dealt within the CTD or otherwise proposed by delegations.
- (i) As and when necessary, the dedicated sessions of the CTD will work in collaboration with relevant subsidiary bodies.
- (j) The General Council shall instruct the WTO Secretariat to provide necessary information and analysis, *inter alia*,
 - (i) on the impact of WTO rules on Small Economies;
 - (ii) of the constraints faced by Small Economies as well as their shortfalls in institutional and administrative capacities, including in the area of human resources;
 - (iii) of the effects of Trade Liberalization on Small Economies.

The CTD will also seek information and analysis from other agencies and bodies that carry out work on small economies.

- (k) The General Council takes note of the modalities and procedures. Accordingly, the substantive work on the WPSE will begin in the dedicated sessions of the CTD as soon as possible.

3. As instructed by our Ministers in Doha, the overall objective of the Work Programme shall be the timely completion of their mandate, as contained in paragraph 35 of the Doha Declaration.
