

**General Council**  
**15 July 1998**

Original: English

## **TRANSPARENCY IN WTO WORK**

### Procedures for the Circulation and Derestriction of WTO Documents

Proposal by the United States

The Delegation of the United States proposes that the General Council adopt the following decision modifying the procedures agreed by the General Council in 1996 (WT/L/160/Rev.1).

\_\_\_\_\_

The General Council *decides* to adopt the following revisions to the procedures for the circulation and derestriction of WTO documents adopted on 18 July 1996 (WT/L/160/Rev.1):

#### Reports of Panels

A panel report shall in all cases be issued to the parties as an unrestricted document, and therefore be made publicly available, as soon as the entire final report is completed in any of the official languages of the WTO and the "Findings and Conclusions" portion of the report is translated into the other two official languages.

#### Working Documents and Draft Documents

Proposed agendas for meetings shall in all cases be circulated as unrestricted documents.

Working papers issued in the "W" series originally submitted by WTO Members as national contributions to a WTO work programme shall in all cases be circulated as unrestricted documents unless the delegation making the submission explicitly requests that the document be restricted.

#### Minutes of Meetings

Minutes of meetings of all WTO bodies, including Summary Records of Sessions of the Ministerial Conference and Secretariat-produced notes of discussions, shall in all cases be circulated as unrestricted documents as soon as the final, Member-approved, versions are completed by the Secretariat.

\_\_\_\_\_