

GUIDELINES FOR APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO WTO BODIES

Approved by the General Council on 31 January 1995

The following guidelines should be applied in the process of consultations on appointment of officers to the WTO bodies.

For this purpose the bodies under the WTO have been separated into eight groups in accordance with the Annex to this paper.

Given its particular nature, these guidelines do not apply to the Textiles Monitoring Body (Group 3 in the Annex). Reference to "Groups" in the guidelines below is done in accordance with the Annex.

Similarly, these guidelines cannot be applied to the appointment of officers of bodies established by the Plurilateral Trade Agreements (Group 7), as their chairpersons should be selected from amongst signatories of the respective agreements and the criteria of selection, the terms of office and other conditions will be decided by the bodies concerned.

The guidelines below may be reviewed in light of experience as necessary.

1. Qualifications and requirements for appointment to posts

1.1 Chairpersons must be representatives of Members. Representatives of Members in financial arrears for over one full year cannot be considered for appointment.

1.2 The choice of a chairperson should primarily reflect the capacity of that person to undertake the special responsibilities required of such posts in the WTO system.

1.3 Appointments must be acceptable to the membership as a whole and not only to regions or groupings that may have proposed them.

2. Overall balance of representation

2.1 A balance which reflects overall membership of the WTO should be achieved in the appointment of officers.

2.2 Such overall balance should be sought in particular for posts under Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 taken as a whole.

2.3 Separately a similar balance should be sought in the appointment of chairpersons under Group 6.

2.4 Chairpersons to Group 8 should be appointed on an ad hoc basis, and in the light of qualifications and availability.

3. **Distribution of chairs**

3.1 Each body should have a separate chairperson.

4. **Level of representation**

4.1 For bodies under Group 1 and 2 chairpersons should be appointed from among Geneva-based Heads of Delegations. In the case of Groups 4, 5, 6 and 8, chairpersons should be Heads of Delegations or officials of delegations of Members of the WTO in Geneva. Non-residents may be appointed in exceptional circumstances where the necessary expertise can only be found in capitals.

5. **Term of office**

5.1 Rotation should be the general rule; the term of office for chairing a body should therefore be one year. Nevertheless, in bodies under Groups 4, 5 and 6 the incumbent chairperson may be considered for reappointment whenever this is found to be in the interest of the efficient functioning of the body.

5.2 Chairpersons of bodies in Group 8 should normally retain their posts until such bodies have concluded their work.

5.3 If a chairperson is transferred from Geneva to another post, either the vice-chairperson would assume the responsibilities of the chairperson, or a new chairperson would be appointed. The original chairperson may be retained only in exceptional circumstances, providing this person is able to come to Geneva whenever necessary and the travel and other related costs are paid by the respective government. The same should apply in the event that a non-Geneva-based person is appointed for exceptional reasons to chair a body.

6. **Procedures for appointment of officers**

6.1 Once the WTO is established the outgoing chairperson of the General Council will normally conduct consultations on the appointment of the chairpersons for the bodies in Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5.

6.2 There should be no automaticity in succession to posts.

6.3 The chairpersons in Group 2 will normally conduct consultations on the appointment of the chairpersons of bodies in Group 6(A), (B) and (C) under the respective authority of the Council they chair.

6.4 The Chairperson of the body which is establishing a subordinate body in Group 8 will hold ad-hoc consultations on the appointment of a chairperson for the latter.

6.5 The same procedures are applicable whenever a chair becomes vacant in the course of a term.

ANNEX

STRUCTURE OF BODIES UNDER THE WTO

Group 1

General Council
General Council meeting as Dispute Settlement Body
General Council meeting as Trade Policy Review Body

Group 2

Council for Trade in Goods
Council for Trade in Services
Council for TRIPS

(Group 3

Textiles Monitoring Body)

Group 4

Committee on Trade and Development
Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions
Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration

Group 5

Committee on Trade and Environment
(Any other body to be established by the Ministerial Conference or the General Council)

Group 6(A)

Committee on Market Access
Committee on Agriculture
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade
Committee on TRIMS

Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

Committee on Customs Valuation

Committee on Rules of Origin

Committee on Import Licensing

Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

Committee on Safeguards

Working Party on Article XVII Notifications

(Any other body to be established by the Council on Trade in Goods).

Group 6(B)

Working Party on Professional Services

Negotiating Group on Basic Telecommunications

Negotiating Group on Financial Services

Negotiating Group on Movement of Natural Persons

Negotiating Group on Maritime Transport Services

(Any other body to be established by the Council on Trade in Services).

Group 6(C)

(Any subsidiary bodies under the Council for TRIPS)

Group 7

Committees established pursuant to the Plurilateral Trade Agreements (Annex 4 Agreements)

Group 8

Other Working Groups and Working Parties (accession; Article XXIV etc.)