



**Council for Trade-Related Aspects of  
Intellectual Property Rights  
in Special Session**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

HELD IN THE CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD  
ON 30 JULY 2020

*Chairperson: Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, Panama*

**1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

1. The meeting was opened by Deputy Director-General Yi Xiaozhun.
2. Deputy Director-General Yi informed the Council that Ambassador Dacio Castillo had been appointed as Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body by the General Council at its meeting of 3 May 2020. His appointment had formally been confirmed on 20 May 2020. In an email message to Members, dated 12 May 2020, the Chair of General Council had informed Members of his consultations on the appointment of a new chair of the Council for TRIPS in Special Session. As a result of his consultations, he had confirmed his understanding that there was a general agreement among the Groups on the candidature of Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, the Permanent Representative of Panama. In his subsequent communication of 18 May 2020, the Chair of the General Council had confirmed that Ambassador Suescum can be formally appointed as Chairperson of the TRIPS Council in Special Session at its next formal meeting. In view of this understanding this meeting had been called.
3. He proposed that the Council for TRIPS in Special Session elect Ambassador Alfredo Suescum of Panama as its new chairperson.
4. The Special Session so agreed.
5. The Chairman thanked Members for the confidence that they had shown him. Since May 2020, with the assistance of the Secretariat and Ambassador Castillo, he had had the opportunity to review and refresh his memory of the past work of this negotiating group. He acknowledged the efforts of Ambassador Castillo, who had led this negotiating group with skill, commitment and dedication for many years and who had left a valuable legacy for Members to work with.
6. He recalled that the mandate of the Special Session concerned the negotiation on the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits. He said that he would do his best to help delegations make progress in fulfilling the mandate and to reach results which were acceptable to all delegations.
7. He intended to canvass Members' thoughts and suggestions on how the work of the Special Session could proceed in fulfilling its mandate. He planned soon to convene informal consultations for this purpose. Meanwhile, he encouraged Members to contact him individually - through the Secretariat - to raise any issues or to explore any ideas or proposals with him.

8. He concluded by thanking Ambassador Mlumbi-Peter of South Africa, for her flexibility in accommodating this meeting back-to-back with the impending meeting of the Council for TRIPS in Regular Session.

9. The Special Session took note of the statement.

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