In a letter to the Director-General dated 13 June 1986 the delegation of Hong Kong has requested that the following text be circulated to the Preparatory Committee.

Hong Kong is putting forward the following proposal for a text in the Ministerial Declaration concerning the dispute settlement mechanism.

"The dispute settlement mechanism is a cornerstone of the GATT, underpinning the contractual framework of the General Agreement. It has a decisive rôle to play in securing a proper balance of rights and obligations between contracting parties and, in particular, in protecting the rights of small and less developed contracting parties. To this end, [Ministers] agree that, while the dispute settlement process has worked satisfactorily in some cases, improvements should be sought by strengthening the procedures and introducing adequate arrangements for overseeing and monitoring of the procedures that would facilitate compliance with recommendations and ensure prompt and effective resolution of disputes."