

**Dispute Settlement Body  
Special Session**

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY**

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador David Spencer,  
to the Trade Negotiations Committee

1. Last May, I had reported to the TNC the consensus among participants that more time was required to complete the dispute settlement negotiations and that work should continue towards clarifications and improvements to the DSU. On 1 August, as part of the July Package, the General Council adopted a recommendation by the TNC that work in the Special Session should continue on the basis set out in my report.
2. Since then, two meetings of the Special Session have been held, on 22 October and 25-26 November 2004. Both of these meetings were essentially devoted to a discussion of the informal joint contribution by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, New Zealand and Norway (JOB(04)/52). This contribution was presented at the end of May. It focuses on three issues which have been in discussion in the Special Session: remand, sequencing, and "post-retaliation" issues.
3. The informal discussion of this text in the last two meetings of the Special Session allowed a very constructive exchange of views and led to a clarification of many aspects of the proposed text.
4. With respect to the organization of future work, I have been consulting informally with delegations and will continue to do so. In the meantime, I have encouraged delegations to continue their efforts to meet amongst themselves, in various formats, to develop areas of convergence.
5. The following dates have been provisionally reserved for possible meetings of the Dispute Settlement Body in Special Session in the first half of next year:
  - 18-19 January
  - 28 February, 1-2 March
  - 4-5 April
  - 9-10 May
  - 21-22 June
  - 28-29 July.

These dates do not, at this point, reflect any particular intended work plan, but rather, they have been selected with a view to securing the opportunity to meet as necessary, keeping in mind the requirements of the scheduling guidelines for official meetings.

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