

**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. On 21 June 2005, it was agreed in the Special Session of the DSB that the Chair would make a report to the next meeting of the TNC. While Members have been consulted on the broad outline of this report, it is presented, as agreed in the Special Session, solely under the Chair's responsibility.
2. Since my last written report of December 2004, the Special Session met six times.¹ Throughout this period, work continued to focus on the discussion of contributions submitted by Members. In that context, we have had constructive discussions on a number of issues.
3. Contributions relating to remand, sequencing, post-retaliation, third-party rights, additional guidance to WTO adjudicative bodies, panel composition, time-savings, and transparency were put forward and discussed in this period.
4. In respect of the special and differential treatment proposals referred to the DSB Special Session in May 2003, it has been agreed that, in reporting to the General Council, I would propose that the Special Session report further at a later stage when our work is more advanced.
5. The Special Session of the Dispute Settlement Body has agreed on the need to intensify the process in the second half of the year with a view to presenting the results of our work to Ministers in Hong Kong. The onus will continue to remain on participants in the negotiations to develop areas of convergence.
6. We propose scheduling several days of meetings per month, including informal meetings in various formats. So far, the following dates have been scheduled for the meetings of the Dispute Settlement Body in Special Session :
 - 23 September 2005
 - 24-25 October 2005.

Additional dates will be scheduled later for the remainder of the year.

¹ The Special Session met on 18 January, 28 February, 4-5 April, 9-10 May, 21 June and 15 July.