

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Dispute Settlement Body
Special Session**

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador David Spencer,
to the General Council

1. On 1 August 2004, the General Council adopted a decision instructing "all WTO bodies to which proposals in Category II have been referred to expeditiously complete the consideration of these proposals and report to the General Council, with clear recommendations for a decision, as soon as possible and no later than July 2005". I am presenting this report further to that decision and following consultation on this matter with Members.
2. The work of the Special Session over the last year has been primarily based on efforts by Members to work among themselves and develop areas of convergence. In this context, a number of contributions have been put forward by various Members, both developed and developing, and discussed in the Special Session. Although no specific proposal relating to special and differential treatment as such has been put forward recently in this context, several delegations have indicated that they have been working on issues relating to the participation of developing country Members in WTO dispute settlement. This work is still ongoing.
3. Against this background, as mentioned in my earlier report to the Trade Negotiations Committee, and as agreed by the Special Session, I propose that, in respect of the nine Category II proposals referred to the DSB Special Session, the Special Session report further at a later stage when our work is more advanced.
