

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 Trade Negotiations Committee

This report is presented by the Chairman under his own responsibility, following consultations with Members.

Over the past year and a half, the work of the Special Session has been based primarily on initiatives by Members to work among themselves in an effort to develop areas of convergence to present to the Special Session as a whole. In this context, a number of contributions have been put forward by various Members and groups of Members and we have had constructive discussions on a number of issues based on these contributions.

Specifically, as reflected in my most recent report to the TNC in July, contributions relating to remand, sequencing, post-retaliation, third-party rights, flexibility and Member control, panel composition, time-savings and transparency have been put forward and discussed in this period.

Since my previous report, we have continued the discussions in respect of all these issues and further contributions have been put forward in respect of some of them, taking into account recent discussions. In addition, some Members have indicated that they are working on other issues.

In the further work of the Special Session, the onus will remain on participants in the negotiations to continue to develop areas of convergence so as to lay the basis for a final agreement to improve and clarify the DSU.

Against this background, I propose that, at the Sixth Ministerial Conference, Ministers take note of the progress made in the DSU negotiations and direct the Special Session of the DSB to continue to work towards a rapid conclusion of the negotiations.
