

**Dispute Settlement Body
Special Session**

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador Ronald Saborío Soto,
to the Trade Negotiations Committee

Since my last written report, the DSB Special Session met twice, on 22 May and on 13 July. At both meetings, the work of the Special Session focused essentially on the presentation and discussion of new informal contributions from Members. At the meeting of 22 May, an informal contribution by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, New Zealand and Norway (the "G6") was introduced and discussed. At the meeting of 13 July, three new informal contributions were presented and discussed: a contribution by Japan on third-party rights at the consultations stage (Job(06)/175); an informal contribution by Cuba, India and Malaysia on general as well as special and differential treatment provisions (Job(06)/222)¹; and a contribution by Switzerland on third-party rights (Job(06)/224).

Since the beginning of the year, the work of the Special Session has continued to be based primarily on informal work by Members among themselves, in various formats, building on the work conducted earlier. This informal process has led to the presentation of improved draft legal text in respect of a number of issues. Specifically, revised contributions relating to remand, sequencing, post-retaliation, third-party rights, flexibility and Member control, strictly confidential information, developing country participation and transparency have been put forward and discussed in this period. Further informal work continues among delegations on certain issues, with the aim of presenting further improved text to the Special Session.

These improved contributions should provide a sound basis to move, as anticipated at the beginning of the year, towards a text-based discussion with the aim of finalizing an agreed text as rapidly as possible. At the meeting of 13 July, I indicated that I would be consulting with Members as to the best way to take the process forward to its final stages. My subsequent contacts with a number of interested delegations were quite positive.

¹ Egypt and Pakistan subsequently also indicated that they co-sponsored this text.