

**Dispute Settlement Body
Special Session**

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador Ronald Saborío Soto,
to the General Council

1. At the last Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, Ministers instructed bodies to which Category II proposals had been referred to "expeditiously complete the consideration of these proposals and report periodically to the General Council, with the objective of ensuring that clear recommendations for a decision are made no later than December 2006". I am presenting this report in light of that decision.
2. Over the last year, the work of the DSB Special Session has continued to be based primarily on efforts by Members to work among themselves, with a view to presenting improved draft legal text to the Special Session, building on previous work.
3. In this context, proponents of Category II proposals had indicated that they were working towards the presentation of revised text to the Special Session. These efforts have now resulted in specific proposals. In this regard, at the last meeting of the Special Session, Cuba, India and Malaysia presented a joint informal contribution on general as well as special and differential treatment provisions, revising elements of an earlier proposal.¹ The sponsors of this contribution indicated that some of the proposed revisions also take into account the ongoing consideration by the DSB Special Session of the Category II S&D proposals. The African group has also indicated that it is working towards the presentation of revised text, including aspects relating to Category II proposals.

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