

**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".¹ I am presenting this report in light of that instruction.
2. Since my last report in September 2006², 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 order to facilitate "work towards a rapid conclusion of the [dispute settlement] negotiations"³, since January 2007 I have been holding a series of substantive consultations on the issues on which revised drafting proposals have been submitted recently. These consultations will include consideration of the revised drafting proposals by Cuba, Egypt, India, Malaysia and Pakistan on special and differential treatment, which were introduced and first discussed at the meeting of the DSB Special Session in July 2006. The co-sponsors of this contribution have indicated that some of the revised drafting proposals also take into account the ongoing consideration by the DSB Special Session of the Category II S&D proposals.
4. In addition, in April 2007 at a meeting I held with the African Group Ambassadors and dispute settlement experts, the African Group reiterated that it is working towards the presentation of a revised text of its earlier proposal, including aspects relating to Category II proposals. According to the African Group, this revised text should be made available in the near future.

¹ Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, para. 37.

² See TN/DS/18 of 1 September 2006.

³ Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, para. 34.