

**Dispute Settlement Body  
Special Session**

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY**

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador Ronald Saborío Soto,  
to the Special Session of 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".<sup>1</sup> In a letter dated 14 November 2007, the Chairman of the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development requested me to update progress on Category II proposals.
2. Since my last progress report on this matter to the General Council in May 2007<sup>2</sup>, the work of the DSB Special Session has continued to be based primarily on efforts by Members working among themselves, building on previous work.
3. In order to facilitate "work towards a rapid conclusion of the [dispute settlement] negotiations"<sup>3</sup>, in the first half of 2007 I held a series of substantive consultations with a broad group of Members on issues for which revised drafting proposals had recently been submitted. These consultations included consideration of a revised joint drafting proposal by Cuba, Egypt, India, Malaysia and Pakistan on special and differential treatment, which was 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 their revised joint drafting proposal takes into account the ongoing consideration by the DSB Special Session of the Category II S&D proposals.
4. Following the summer break, I initiated further substantive consultations aimed at bridging the gap between Members' positions concerning revised drafting proposals addressed in the consultations held earlier this year, including the joint proposal by Cuba, Egypt, India, Malaysia and Pakistan on special and differential treatment. This joint proposal continues to be an integral part of our work and will be expected to be discussed further in early 2008.
5. In addition, in the past few weeks the African Group has reiterated that it is working towards presentation of a revised text of its earlier proposal, including aspects relating to Category II proposals. The African Group has indicated that this revised text should be made available in the near future, following which it can be expected to be also addressed in the context of the upcoming round of consultations.

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<sup>1</sup> Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, para. 37.

<sup>2</sup> That report is available in document TN/DS/19, dated 4 May 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, para. 34.