

**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

1. To further advance towards a rapid conclusion of the negotiations as mandated by Ministers¹, I have continued to hold substantive consultations in various formats since my last written reports², focussing on draft legal text on all issues before us. To ensure continued transparency and inclusiveness, each week of consultations was concluded with an informal meeting of the DSB Special Session, in order to report to the entire Membership on progress and to discuss future work.
2. The negotiations have continued to be based on Member-driven efforts. Members and groups of Members have engaged in an earnest exercise to review and revise their proposals in light of comments received from other participants. Signs of flexibility from other Members have also contributed to the success of this phase of our work. The results of these efforts have allowed to clarify and consolidate the issues on the table, and have provided us with a sound basis for the conclusion of our work.
3. To record recent progress in our negotiations and to give further impetus towards their successful conclusion, I am issuing a separate document under my own responsibility.³ This document includes a consolidated draft legal text, based primarily on recent drafting proposals submitted by Members. It also includes some suggestions I make on specific issues, based on recent discussions. I hope that this draft legal text can serve as a basis for the advancement of our work in the months to come, towards a rapid conclusion of the negotiations.
4. Following the summer break, I intend to intensify consultations on all issues with a view to finalizing, in the autumn, legal text leading to a balanced and realistic set of improvements and clarifications of the DSU. At the appropriate point in time, this process will also need to address how to give legal effect to the results of the negotiations.
5. Despite the progress made over the past months, we still have much to accomplish in order to reach agreement on improvements and clarifications of the DSU. Continuing to work in the same constructive spirit over the coming months will remain critical to a successful conclusion of our negotiations.

¹ See WT/MIN(05)/DEC, para. 37.

² See TN/DS/20 and TN/DS/21 and Corr.1.

³ To be circulated as JOB(08)/81.