

**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. Following my written report in July¹, I held consultations with interested delegations and groups of delegations to discuss the way forward towards a rapid conclusion of the negotiations mandated by Ministers.² These consultations also allowed delegations to provide their first, informal reactions to the document that I issued under my own responsibility in July.³ This July document includes a consolidated draft legal text of possible changes to the DSU, which is based primarily on Members' recent revised drafting proposals but also contains some drafting suggestions I have made on specific issues in light of recent discussions.⁴ The July document also includes a thematic overview of the various issues under discussion in our negotiations.⁵
2. Based on these consultations, in November I convened an informal meeting of the DSB Special Session to offer participants an opportunity to react to the July document and discuss future work in our negotiations. At the meeting, delegations endorsed the consolidated draft legal text contained in the July document as basis for our future work. Delegations were also in support of continuing our substantive consultations in a format comparable to our work earlier this year, in various formats, with each set of consultations being concluded by an informal meeting of the DSB Special Session to report to the entire Membership on progress.
3. Subsequently, during the period 3-5 December, I held a set of substantive consultations in various formats, to discuss some of the substantive issues on the basis of the draft legal text contained in the July document. An informal meeting of the DSB Special Session concluded the week's work.
4. I intend to hold similar sets of substantive consultations and informal meetings of the DSB Special Session on a regular basis.
5. The negotiations will continue to be Member-driven. Reaching convergence will require additional flexibility in Members' positions. We need to make progress in a steady and constructive manner because on most issues much still needs to be done before we can successfully fulfill our mandate.

¹ See TN/DS/22 of 18 July 2008.

² See WT/MIN(05)/DEC, para. 37.

³ See JOB(08)/81 of 18 July 2008.

⁴ See *id.*, Annex 1.

⁵ See *id.*, Annex 2.