

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

TN/MA/19  
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## Negotiating Group on Market Access

### NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS

Progress Report by the Chairman, Ambassador Don Stephenson, to  
the Trade Negotiations Committee

#### I. STATUS OF WORK

1.1 Since the last report to the TNC dated 28 April 2006, the NAMA Group has held two week-long meetings (15 to 19 May and 13 to 16 June) which were convened through organizational faxes dated 24 May 2006 and 12 June 2006, respectively. Several open-ended meetings supplemented these week-long meetings. In addition, I have been consulting with proponents and opponents of issues either separately or together. These consultations have been further complemented by Room F and Room E-type meetings as well as confessionals.

1.2 In the table below are some more details on the open-ended sessions held since my last report to the TNC and the issues taken up at these sessions:

Date	Type of meeting	Issue(s) discussed
10 May 2006	Open-ended	LDCs; Paragraph 6; SVEs; RAMs; Non-reciprocal preferences
15-19 May 2006	Open-ended (NAMA week)	Paragraph 6; NTBs; Sectorals; LDC issues; SVEs; RAMs; Product coverage; Preparation of Doha Schedules
30 May 2006	Open-ended	Introduction by the Secretariat of the Simulations
31 May 2006	Open-ended	NTBs; AVEs
2 June 2006 (cont. on 7 June)	Open-ended	Simulations
9 June 2006	Open-ended	"Ambition" issues
12-16 June 2006	Open-ended (NAMA week)	All issues
23 June 2006	Open-ended	Introduction and comments to Chair's paper entitled "Towards modalities".

1.3 I would note that several new papers, proposals/ proposed language as well as reports have been presented during the course of these open-ended sessions and discussed. In fact since my last TNC report, thirty documents under the TN/MA/- symbol and 15 documents with JOB numbers have been circulated. In this regard, I would draw your attention to the Secretariat document TN/MA/S/16/Rev.5 which highlights all new documents circulated since 4 April 2006. Of course, I would note that informal papers which were circulated are not listed in this document.

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## II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES/FUTURE WORK

2.1 Following this process of intensive meetings and consultations, I elaborated my document entitled "Towards NAMA Modalities" (JOB(06)/200). Following its discussion at an open-ended informal meeting on 23 June 2006, I circulated a revised version on 26 June 2006 (JOB(06)/200/Rev.1). This document has subsequently been re-issued as TN/MA/W/80. It is clear that divergences remained on a number of issues, but it is also notable that much progress had been made in closing some of the gaps.

2.2 On 1 July 2006, following the unsuccessful Ministerial gathering at the end of June when modalities in Agriculture and NAMA were to be established, the TNC agreed: (1) to request the TNC Chairman, in view of the crisis in the DDA, to conduct intensive and wide-ranging consultations with the aim of facilitating the urgent establishment of modalities in agriculture and NAMA; (2) that his consultations should be based on the draft texts prepared by the Chairs of the negotiating groups; and (3) that he should report to the TNC as soon as possible.

2.3 As you heard from the report made by the TNC Chairman on 24 July 2006, despite all efforts it was not possible to reach the objective of establishing these modalities. As a result, his recommendation was to suspend the Doha negotiations. He did not propose any date for resumption of activity in the Negotiating Groups as, in his view, this could only happen when the "conditions exist to permit renewed progress".

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