

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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15 June 2004

(04-2595)

**Special Session of the Dispute Settlement Body
24 May 2004**

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
on 24 May 2004

Chairman: Mr. David Spencer (Australia)

1. Prior to the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman welcomed participants to the twenty-first meeting of the Special Session and said that the agenda for the meeting contained two items, namely (i) Stock-Taking Discussion and (ii) "Other Business". He asked whether any delegation would like to raise any matter under "Other Business". As there was no request from the floor, the item relating to "Other Business" was removed from the agenda. The agenda was subsequently adopted, as amended.
2. The Chairman requested participants to take due note of the paper prepared by the group of six countries, which had already attracted a number of reactions.¹ Regarding future work, he said that there appeared to be consensus on the need for more time to complete the work, on the understanding that consideration would be given to all existing texts and that the negotiations would remain outside the Single Undertaking.
3. He suggested that the Special Session authorize him to report, on his own responsibility, to the next meeting of the TNC on the following points: (i) that on the basis of the work that had been done thus far, including the proposals that had been put forward by Members as well as the Chairman's text of last May, the Special Session had made some progress since the General Council meeting in July last year; (ii) that the contributions that had been made by some delegations in this period had been welcomed by delegations; (iii) that there was a consensus on the need to continue working towards the clarification and improvement of the DSU; (iv) that the Special Session request appropriate action to be taken by the TNC and the General Council as required, for the continuation of work in the Special Session; (v) and finally, that he would not recommend at this point any specific benchmarks or guidelines for this continued work, but that such benchmarks or guidelines could be considered at a later stage.
4. He requested participants which might have any difficulty with his proposed statement to the TNC to contact him as soon as possible.

¹ JOB(04)/52: Textual contribution to the negotiations on improvements and clarifications of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, Non-Paper presented by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, New Zealand and Norway.