

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
from 12 – 16 July 2010

Chairman: H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ernesto Sperisen-Yurt (Guatemala)

1. The Chairman recalled that the agenda for the session had been circulated in WTO/AIR/3582. As Members would have noticed from the airgram, the meeting had meant to focus on three main areas of work. The first related to new submissions from the membership. It had been foreseen for them to be addressed right after the end of the opening plenary. But in the absence of any such submissions, the Negotiating Group would move straight into the GATT Article X area and would look at the issues delegations did not get to address at the last meeting. Time permitting, the NGTF would then move to the GATT Article VIII area as set out in the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text (TN/TF/W/165/Rev.3). This would be followed by work on special and differential treatment as a third key item on Members' agenda.
2. Time would also be accorded to delegations' bilateral, plurilateral and open-ended activities, as requested. Three half days had been reserved to that end. Delegations wishing to organize such initiatives would be expected to report on their results in Friday's closing plenary. After that, Members would take up their traditional technical assistance and needs assessment items.
3. In drawing up the schedule, he had followed Members' request and tried to align the NGTF's activities with that of the NAMA Group to minimize overlaps. As a result, there were minor changes in the order delegations would remember from the past (Slots for bilaterals/plurilaterals in the mornings of the Tuesday and the Wednesday, as opposed to the afternoons, and no plenary after lunch on the first day to make room for parallel NAMA sessions.) He hoped that this would facilitate Members' work over the course of the busy week.
4. The agenda was adopted.
 - A. WORK ON THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING TEXT
5. This part of the meeting was conducted in informal mode.
6. The Negotiating Group took note of the statements made.
 - B. AD HOC ATTENDANCE OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO AND THE WORLD BANK, AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP
7. The Chairman suggested inviting relevant international organizations, including the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO and the World Bank to attend the next formal meeting of the Negotiating Group on an ad hoc basis, as provided for in the Work Plan.

8. It was so agreed.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

9. The Chairman addressed the issue of the Negotiating Group's next meeting, suggesting to hold it from 4 – 8 October. Details regarding its content and structure would be communicated to Members in due course.

10. It was so agreed.

11. The Negotiating Group took note of the statements made.

12. The meeting was adjourned.
