

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

TN/TF/M/41

22 June 2011

(11-3091)

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## Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard  
from 6 – 10 June 2011

*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/3753.
2. As set out in the airgram, the meeting sought to accomplish three main tasks: First, it was set to evaluate the current state-of-play, taking stock of the progress made. It also aimed at harvesting the concrete advances by integrating them into the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text. Furthermore, Members should have an opportunity to discuss the next steps.
3. The agenda was adopted.
- A. REPORTS BY THE FACILITATORS AND CONSIDERATION OF REVISED TEXTS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING TEXT
4. This part of the meeting was conducted in informal mode.
5. 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
6. 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.
7. It was so agreed.
- C. OTHER BUSINESS
8. The Chairman addressed the issue of the Negotiating Group's next meeting and suggested to hold it from 11-15 July. Details regarding its content and structure would be communicated to Members in due course.
9. The representative of Qatar said that this would be too soon to make substantial progress. He asked whether it was possible to postpone the dates for the next meeting.
10. The Chairman said that this request had been taken note of and asked the Secretariat to brief Members on the available options.

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11. The WTO Secretariat advised that the last two weeks in July had already been reserved for other meetings, leaving no choice other than the week of 11 July to hold the next NGTF session. However, the concerns had been clearly understood, and all efforts would be made in the future to ensure that scheduling took account of these considerations.

12. The Chairman said that, in light of those constraints, it would be difficult to take Qatar's suggestion on board. It was important to have a meeting before the summer break. He therefore proposed to hold the meeting as originally suggested from 11-15 July.

13. It was so agreed.

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

15. The meeting was adjourned.

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