

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
from 11 – 15 July 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/3778.
2. As Members would have noticed from the airgram, the meeting aimed at accomplishing three primary tasks: First, it was meant to evaluate the current state-of-play, taking stock of the recent progress made. It equally aimed at harvesting the concrete advances by integrating them into the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text. In addition, delegations would be able to review the road ahead.
3. With regard to those next steps, he informed Members that he would be making a proposal on Friday on how he wished to organize the negotiating process over the next few months. He intended to continue to respect fully the three pillars of "Member-driven", "inclusiveness" and "transparency" that had served the Negotiating Group well so far, and to continue with the facilitator process that Members had been using since the beginning of this year. He would be proposing a number of adjustments to that process, which he would describe on Friday.
4. The agenda was adopted.
- A. REPORTS BY THE FACILITATORS, CONSIDERATION OF REVISED TEXTS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING TEXT AND REVIEW OF NEXT STEPS
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 and suggested to hold it from 26-30 September. Details regarding its content and structure would be communicated to Members in due course.

10. It was so agreed.

11. The representative of Chile bid farewell to the delegations scheduled to leave Geneva. All of them had provided important input in different forms and functions. Chile was very appreciative of their work and wished them all the best for the future. For those representatives who had already left, such as Darío Celaya from Argentina, Chile requested that its thanks be passed on.

12. The representative of Canada joined Chile in thanking leaving delegates for their important contribution. Canada also wished to thank the parting lead negotiators from capital. The negotiations could not be done without the experts from capital.

13. The Chairman thanked everybody for their hard work and extended his best wishes for the future.

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

15. The meeting was adjourned.
