

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

TN/TF/M/49

14 December 2012

(12-6840)

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
from 3-6 December 2012

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

1. The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting of the Negotiating Group. Thanks to generous funding from Norway, Sweden and the EU, he was able to extend his greetings to experts from ACP and LDC capitals who would be joining delegations this week.
2. He recalled that the proposed agenda for the meeting had been circulated in WTO/AIR/4052. As Members would have noticed from the airgram, the meeting sought to accomplish several tasks: first, it was set to evaluate the current state-of-play and the progress made. Members would be invited to harvest the advances – both in terms of texts already tabled and with respect to revised language delegations were going to see presented during the week – by integrating them into the Draft Consolidated Negotiating Text. In addition, Members would have an opportunity to take stock of what they were able to achieve over the course of the past few months and to discuss where one should go from here.
3. The agenda was adopted.
- A. REPORTS BY FACILITATORS, CONSIDERATION OF NEW/REVISED TEXTS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE DRAFT CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING TEXT AND STOCK-TAKING.
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 dates for the Negotiating Group's next meeting. As he had already mentioned when discussing the next steps, he would like to propose for the session to take place from 11-15 March. This would give Members enough time to engage in additional rounds of

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facilitated and other Member-driven meetings before meeting in NGTF mode – which is what was needed in order to move forward. Details on objective and structure of those events would be communicated in due course.

9. It was so agreed.
 10. The Negotiating Group took note of the statements made.
 11. The meeting was adjourned.
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