

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Held in the Centre William Rappard
on 9-11 and 18 November 2005

Chairman: Mr. Muhamad Noor Yacob (Malaysia)

Corrigendum

Page 5 - Intervention by the representative of Barbados

Paragraphs 35-38 of the intervention by the representative of Barbados should read as follows:

35. Barbados, as a proponent of the Small Economies Work Programme, wished to acknowledge, in particular, the proposals tabled by small and vulnerable economies (SVEs), either individually or with other interested Members, and hoped that the interest of SVEs would continue to be taken on board.

36. The Chair and the Secretariat were to be commended not only for the way in which the discussions had been led and supported but also for the draft report produced. Much of it was factual, but even in the simple enunciation of facts, it was important that the report did not prejudge or pre-determine a post-Hong Kong route which had not been formally agreed to by all. In light of that, Barbados concurred with the specific textual recommendations made by the Philippines on behalf of the Core Group. Barbados also supported Zambia's position on TA. In particular, Barbados recommended consideration be given to having an audit on the provision of TA before moving directly onto text-based negotiations.

37. It was important that all elements of the negotiating mandate be reflected in the report in an equal manner. Hence, the S&D element should be included as a stand-alone item in the list of issues in section I. It was recognized that some Members had recommended that that list be deleted but in the event that no consensus was reached on that, and that it remained, it was important that the list reflected the compilation document and that it was specifically stated as being illustrative and non-exhaustive. It was Barbados's understanding that the list would provide an opportunity to take stock of the areas discussed so far rather than be a pre-determined *de jure* list of issues for future negotiation. In this respect, there remained some issues which certain delegations considered to perhaps still be outside the NG's mandate.

38. One of the more integral processes in the discussions, which had been reflected in both formal and informal discussions amongst delegations, was the need to discuss and formulize a coordinating mechanism for the identification, financing and delivery of TA&CB in a sustainable manner during and after the negotiations. Barbados was particularly pleased to see specific mention of that in the draft report.

¹ In English only.