

Secretariat paper on special and  
differential treatment in WTO  
Agreements and Decisions  
(WT/COMTD/W/196)

# CTD Terms of Reference (elements)

- To serve as a focal point for consideration and coordination of work on development in the World Trade Organization....
- To review periodically.... the application of special provisions in the Multilateral Trade Agreements and related Ministerial Decisions in favour of developing country Members, and in particular least-developed country Members.....

# S&D discussions in CTD

- Since the establishment of the CTD in 1995, discussions have been held on S&D
- Various papers by the Secretariat have been prepared on the subject of S&D

# Secretariat paper from 2000/2001

- Typology of S&D provisions in WTO Agreements
  - Provisions aimed at increasing the trade opportunities of developing country Members;
  - Provisions under which WTO Members should safeguard the interests of developing country Members;
  - Flexibility of commitments, of action, and use of policy instruments;
  - Transitional time-periods;
  - Technical assistance;
  - Provisions relating to LDC Members.
- Information on implementation of S&D provisions

## Updates to 2001 Secretariat paper

- The 2001 paper has been updated at the request of Members
- An update was prepared this year

## Background to most recent update

- At MC8:
- “Ministers reaffirm that development is a core element of the WTO's work.
- They also reaffirm the positive link between trade and development and call for focused work in the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) which is to conduct this work in accordance with its mandate and report the results achieved to Ministers at the Ninth Session.
- Ministers call on WTO Members to fully operationalize the mandate of the CTD as a focal point for development work.”

## MC8 mandate: discussions in the CTD

- A number of proposals by Members
- Proposal to update the Secretariat's paper was from China, Cuba, Ecuador, India and the African Group (WT/COMTD/W/192)

# Proposal (WT/COMTD/W/192)

- *Request the Secretariat to continue to update the report: an objective and analytical listing of the S&D provisions, identifying the measures that have been taken and put forward to operationalize them. Taking into account that S&D provisions are an integral part of the WTO Agreements, that these provisions are essential to the better integration of developing countries into the world trade system so that trade can be instrumental in achieving development, as well as the time elapsed since the last report, a comprehensive overview on the matter is considered a timely and necessary input for the regular CTD work.*
- The proposal was agreed to by the CTD at its 87<sup>th</sup> Session on 4 March 2013



## Preparation of the update

- Prepared in April/May
- Secretariat-wide inputs were received
- Circulated in June (WT/COMTD/W/196)

## Basic structure of Secretariat paper

- Separate section for each WTO Agreement with S&D provisions
- Each S&D provision in these Agreements is listed
- Information on the implementation of each S&D provision is provided (where available)
- Summary table of the number of S&D provisions by type and by agreement
- A total of 139 provisions over all Agreements

## Basic structure of Secretariat paper (cont'd)

- Additional section on Ministerial, General Council and other relevant Decisions, with information on implementation (where available)

## Discussion of the paper in the CTD

- The updated paper was reflected on the agenda of the CTD meetings of 17 July and 24 October