

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(05)/20¹
15 December 2005

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Sixth Session
Hong Kong, 13 - 18 December 2005

Original: English

SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

Communication from Kenya on behalf of the African Group

The following communication, dated 15 December 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Kenya on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group would like the current text on Special and Differential Treatment as reflected in paragraphs 29 to 32 of the Draft Ministerial Text (WT/MIN(05)/W/3) to be replaced by the text below:

We reaffirm that the provisions for special and differential treatment are an integral part of the WTO Agreements. We note with concern that the work on special and differential was supposed to have been completed by July 2002. We renew our determination to fulfil the mandate in paragraph 44 of the Doha mandate that all special and differential treatment provisions shall be reviewed with a view to making them more precise, effective and operational. In that connection, we note that some progress has been made in achieving agreement on [...] proposals and instruct that further work be carried out on these proposals. Given the limited progress on issues referred to subsidiary bodies, we instruct that all outstanding special and differential treatment issues shall be addressed by the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session as expeditiously as possible, giving priority to the agreement-specific proposals. The Special Session shall report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2006. We further instruct the Special Session to work on incorporating a Trade and Development framework into the architecture of WTO rules.

¹ This communication was previously circulated as Job(05)/305.