



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE  
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

H.E. Mr. Yousef Hussain Kamal  
Minister of Finance, Economy and Commerce  
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce  
P.O. Box 3322  
Doha  
Qatar

Geneva, 5 November 2001

Dear Minister,

As you know, following an initiative by many developing countries, the WTO's General Council decided on 3 May 2000 to meet in Special Sessions to address outstanding issues and concerns raised by Members regarding the implementation of WTO agreements and decisions, and to complete this process not later than the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference.

Since then, Members have worked together in six Special Sessions and in innumerable informal consultations in various formats, in a concerted effort to complete the process in accordance with the terms of the Decision of May 2000. In this work, they have also drawn upon the important and valuable technical expertise available in other WTO councils and committees.

At the Special Session on 3 October and subsequently on 1 November 2001, we submitted for the consideration of Members a draft Decision to address all outstanding implementation-related issues and concerns. This text, which should be read in conjunction with the related compilation of outstanding issues as well as paragraph 12 of the draft Ministerial Declaration, resulted from a re-examination of earlier proposals in an intensive consultative process, and took into consideration suggestions by interested delegations, as well as elements from the reports of the subsidiary bodies on issues referred to them. The draft Decision proposes immediate action on a number of implementation issues, and provides that remaining issues -- which include those referred to other WTO bodies as well as those listed in the compilation -- will be addressed in the course of the future work programme in accordance with paragraph 12 of the draft Ministerial Declaration. Finally, the draft Decision also recommends related action to ensure that WTO technical assistance focuses as a priority on assisting developing countries in this area of the WTO's work.

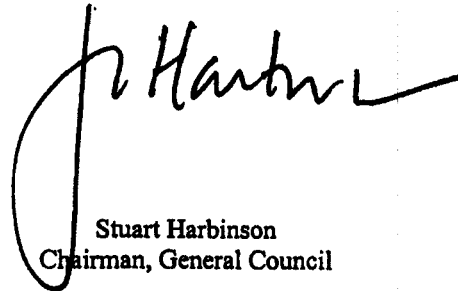
It is our assessment, on the basis of the discussion at the Special Session on 1 November, that most of the elements contained in the draft Decision are acceptable to all Members. However, despite our best efforts to put forward compromise solutions in all areas, some concerns remain with regard to some proposals. In particular, Members have expressed serious concern with the proposals on the Agreements on Textiles and Clothing and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, especially as regards Article 27.4 of the latter Agreement.

Accordingly, in transmitting this draft to Ministers for decision on our own responsibility, we recommend that in the organization of further work on this subject Ministers seek to focus on the limited number of outstanding issues and not reopen the text in other areas. We are also circulating this letter to all Members for information.

Accept, dear Minister, the assurances of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mike Moore  
Director-General

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Harbinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the beginning.

Stuart Harbinson  
Chairman, General Council