

A New Realism in the Doha Round? A Roundtable Discussion

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On March 2-3, 2006, a group of leading observers of the international trade and investment scene gathered in Ottawa for an informal discussion of the prospects for the Doha Development Agenda in view of the progress in negotiations made at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) at Hong Kong, China, December 2005. The roundtable discussion was sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation at the University of Waterloo and the International Development Research Centre, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The talks focused on the progress of negotiations and the prospects for an ambitious outcome, taking into account the geopolitical and international macroeconomic context, as well as looming developments on the political calendar. This note represents the Chair's thematic summary of the discussions. As these were held under Chatham House rules, no attribution is given. Responsibility for the interpretation of the discussion rests entirely with the authors. Although the prospects for a successful conclusion of the Round remain in doubt, the analysis is still relevant.

* John M. Curtis was at the time Chief Economist and Dan Ciuriak Deputy Chief Economist, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. The views expressed in this Chapter reflect the discussion at the roundtable and are not to be attributed to Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada or to the Government of Canada, to the Centre for International Governance Innovation, University of Waterloo, or to the International Development Research Centre.