

12 September: The Chair reports on his "findings" from his bilateral meetings, and suggests drafting of conclusions and recommendations in plenary session without any draft on table. There is a near revolt by CTE Members as they instruct the Chair to work closely with Secretariat on draft for CTE's consideration.

23 September: The Chair tables draft conclusions and recommendations. From discussions with Secretariat, it becomes clear that he has significantly changed a more neutral, less ambitious Secretariat draft. The developing countries are livid, viewing document as pandering to USA and EU interests. The middle countries (e.g., Canada, Brazil, Australia, Korea, New Zealand, Japan) are relatively comfortable with the draft.

2-4 October: The first reading of the draft conclusions and recommendations. Some developing countries tabled an alternate draft, which after some procedural wrangling, is largely forgotten. The developing countries, led by India, Egypt, and ASEAN, appear to be aiming for extreme minimalist conclusions.

10 October: The revised draft conclusions and recommendations which, while containing much of the substantive content of the 23 September draft, are more neutral. The revised draft of Sections I and II are also reissued, these incorporates written comments by delegations on earlier drafts. Again, the developing countries feel the Chair has intervened too strongly and are unhappy with draft.

17-30 October: This session sees Intensive informal open-ended discussions on draft conclusions and recommendations, as well as factual parts of the report. Discussions do not go well, with efforts by a number of delegations to rewrite history, and there is no emerging consensus on conclusions and recommendations.

31 October - 1 November: The Chair leaves for G15 meeting. Informal drafting groups, assisted by Secretariat, meet on MEAs, ecolabelling, market access and TRIPs appear to make some progress. Ecolabelling is close to a consensus text. The MEA issue appears far from resolution.

November 6: The Chair returns and starts a 24 hour drafting marathon. In contrast to previous sessions, it is largely only trade policy negotiators in the room. Initial discussions do not appear promising as delegations remain far apart and are restating positions. The drafting group on TRIPs (EU, USA, Brazil, India) meets at 3 AM for one hour. After that the blockage appears gone and in the remaining hours the text is cleaned up with all delegations demonstrating considerable flexibility.