

based upon consensus decision making, these two factors, combined with the lack of domestic policy coordination between trade and environment ministries in many countries, makes the Report's conclusions a significant achievement.

All delegations were aware of the bottom line that it was in the interest of the WTO as an organization to have a report in the Singapore Ministerial Conference that most delegations could defend back home. The end result was a report that has done that; the next step is to build upon the greater understanding of the issues engendered by the report in a balanced manner.

The challenge for the future is to ensure greater balance in the discussions of trade and environment through development of greater understanding among delegations of environmental policy issues, particularly among delegations where policy coordination between trade, environment and other relevant ministries is less well developed. Greater use of experts, from both the intergovernmental and non-governmental community, can assist this process of policy integration, and thus set the stage for less polarized possible future negotiations. In this context, Singapore should be seen as the beginning, not the end of the process.