

goods in order to move the negotiations from discussion of modalities to discussion of commercially meaningful market opening—for developed and developing countries alike.

While good progress in 2005 would pave the way for the final run to an agreement, it would not of course be the end of the story. A number of other shoes would still have to fall in the end-game before the Doha Round would be safely in the books.

- A credible commitment of resources for trade-related technical assistance and capacity building would have to be forthcoming to keep the large bloc of poor countries (the G-90²) at the table.
- Solutions would have to be at hand for the systemic and institutional issues that are likely to arise, as they typically have in the past, in the late stages of the negotiations to help balance the deal.
- The various protagonists in the negotiating process would have to meet the procedural challenges of bringing along each of the negotiating groups, of aggregating the results in understandable ways for the Members to facilitate the calculation of the trade-offs that they individually face, and of maintaining transparency in the process to forestall an inadvertent breakdown of trust that could derail the process altogether.

Are there innovative ideas on ways to break through the various impasses that have slowed or stalled negotiations to date? Will the major industrialized states see multilateral trade liberalization as a solution to their current macroeconomic problems—or as an impediment or even as irrelevant? Will the large dynamic developing countries that are presently doing well in economic terms complacently decide to live with the *status quo*, or make essential contributions to the trading system from which they have drawn much of their recent dynamism? Will international business enterprises see improvements to the operation of the multilateral system as important to their bottom lines?

² The G-90 is a WTO-oriented coalition of the least developed countries (LDCs), the African Union (AU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group.