

As noted earlier, it was not obvious that bringing some or all of the Singapore issues into the negotiations would serve to improve the trade-offs. Moreover, the basic premise of having the same rules apply regardless of the level of development was thought to raise some difficulties in this cluster of issues.

Other Issues

Several issues that are part of the Doha Development Agenda were not directly addressed during the workshop:

WTO rules—Anti-Dumping and Subsidies: The negotiations are to clarify and improve existing measures while preserving the basic concepts and principles of these agreements. Initially, members are to indicate where clarification and improvements are required in the two agreements, before starting the second phase of negotiations. The subsidies in fisheries have already been specifically singled out as an important sector where gains can be made for developing countries.

Start: January 2002

Stock taking: 5th Ministerial Conference, 2003 (in Mexico)

Deadline: January 1st, 2005, part of single undertaking

WTO rules—Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs): The Doha Declaration mandates the clarification and improvement of “disciplines and procedures under the existing WTO provisions applying to regional trade agreements.” As background, it might be noted that, to date, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements has not completed an assessment of *any* preferential trade agreement notified to the WTO and ruled as to whether it conformed to the provisions of the WTO agreements (in particular to Article XXIV which addresses the conformity of RTAs with WTO rules). The reason for this state of events is that the interpretation of the specific wording of Article XXIV conditions has proven controversial.

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