

---

**Organization of the Negotiations**

The Doha Declaration remitted the Singapore issues to working groups, with the go-ahead to be based on a “decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that session on modalities”, namely the 5th Ministerial Meeting in Cancun.

*Trade and Investment*

Some 39 Member submissions (and another 9 by the Secretariat) have been tabled. Seven areas have been identified for further clarification: scope and definition of the Agreement; transparency; non-discrimination; modalities for pre-establishment commitments based on a GATS-type, positive list approach; development provisions; exceptions and balance-of-payments safeguards; consultation and the settlement of disputes between members.

*Trade and Competition*

Areas are to be clarified: (a) core principles including; transparency, procedural fairness, non-discrimination and “hardcore” cartels (i.e., those not formally set up); (b) voluntary cooperation on competition policy among members; and (c) capacity building for developing countries

*Transparency in Government Procurement*

Separate from the plurilateral Government Procurement Agreement, the declaration states that negotiations shall be limited to the transparency aspects and therefore will not restrict the scope for countries to give preferences to domestic supplies and suppliers.” Development concerns, technical assistance and capacity building are all to be discussed.

*Trade Facilitation*

The Doha Declaration recognizes the need for “expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity building in this area”.

---

The Singapore issue cluster was touched on only lightly during the discussions with little enthusiasm voiced for addressing these issues in the Doha Round.

One of the issues did, however receive some attention. It was pointed out that, in a post-9/11 security environment, the continuing emphasis on security (which is an added cost to trade) appears to be weighing down on trade (more stringent border controls, screening of containers etc.). Trade facilitation could assume greater importance as a means of preventing a further deepening of home bias in this context.