

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

**WT/GC/59**  
13 March 2002

(02-1283)

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**General Council**

Original: English

## **CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF SAUDI ARABIA**

### Communication from the Chairman of the General Council

At the General Council meeting on 15 February 2002, the outgoing Chairman of the General Council informed Members that in his recent consultations on the appointment of officers to WTO bodies he had also raised with delegations the question of appointment of a chairperson for the Working Party on the Accession of Saudi Arabia, in light of the fact that its present Chairman, Mr. Weekes (Canada), had indicated to him that he would no longer be able to serve in this capacity. The outgoing Chairman reported that as a result of these consultations, he believed that consensus could be reached shortly on the appointment of Ambassador Munir Akram (Pakistan), who had offered to make himself available to chair this Working Party. He had also recalled that the normal procedure regarding such appointments was for the General Council to authorize its Chairman to appoint the chairpersons for such working parties in consultation with Members and with the acceding country in question, and that he or the new General Council Chairman would complete these consultations and, if there were no objections, designate the chairperson of the Working Party and so inform the General Council in writing.

Accordingly, in the light of the further consultations that have been held on this matter both with Members and with the Government of Saudi Arabia, I am pleased to inform Members that Ambassador Akram will serve as the new Chairman of this Working Party.

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