

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

REPORT ON OUTSTANDING IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12 OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

1. Paragraph 12 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1) provides that "the other outstanding implementation issues shall be addressed as a matter of priority by the relevant WTO bodies, which shall report to the Trade Negotiations Committee, established under paragraph 46 below, by the end of 2002 for appropriate action."
2. The two outstanding implementation issues raised by Members related to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (JOB(01)/152/Rev.1) are as the following:
 - Tired 33
Article 11 shall be made obligatory so that technical assistance and cooperation is provided to developing countries.
 - Tired 34
Acceptance by developed-country importers of self-declaration regarding adherence to standards by developing-country exporters. This provision should be introduced in Article 12.
3. In pursuance of the Ministerial Decision, the Committee addressed the above issues at its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth meetings on 20-21 June and 17 October 2002 (G/TBT/M/27-28).
4. At the twenty-eighth meeting, India, the proponent, re-introduced the proposals to the Committee (Paragraphs 133-139 of G/TBT/M/27) and believed that: "(i) It was necessary to ensure meaningful technical assistance and cooperation to developing countries and to effectively operationalize Article 11 of the Agreement; and (ii) it would be beneficial for the Committee to hold focussed discussions on the approach of supplier's declarations, in particular on how suppliers from developing countries exporting to markets of developed countries could benefit from this mechanism." The explanation was welcomed. It was noted that the Committee had been addressing the issues of technical assistance and supplier's declarations in the context of the triennial reviews of the Agreement (G/TBT/5 and 9). The need to further discuss these issues was acknowledged.