

## ANNEX 1:

### WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE FOURTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

1. Article 15.4 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) provides that: "Not later than the end of the third year from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement and at the end of each three-year period thereafter, the Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement, including the provisions relating to transparency, with a view to recommending an adjustment of the rights and obligations of the Agreement where necessary to ensure mutual economic advantage and balance of rights and obligations, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 12. Having regard, *inter alia*, to the experience gained in the implementation of the Agreement, the Committee shall, where appropriate, submit proposals for amendments to the text of this Agreement to the Council for Trade in Goods".

2. The Committee concluded the First, Second and Third Triennial Reviews of the Operation and Implementation of the TBT Agreement on 13 November 1997 (G/TBT/5), 10 November 2000 (G/TBT/9) and 7 November 2003 (G/TBT/13), respectively. In light of the mandate quoted above, the aim is to conclude the Fourth Triennial Review at the Committee's last meeting in 2006.

3. Article 15.4 states that the Committee shall *at the end of* each three-year period undertake the review work. In order to prepare for this review work and to ensure efficiency, the work programme (overleaf) sets out three stages: identification, discussion and drafting. In essence, this approach means that, by mid-cycle (June 2005), the Committee would shift its focus from the follow-up of the Third Triennial Review to the preparation of the Fourth.

4. Three formal meetings of the TBT Committee have been scheduled for 2005 and another three are foreseen to be held in 2006.

5. It is proposed that the review work be initiated at the First meeting in 2005 with a preliminary identification of topics for review. It is stressed that this list will be preliminary and that Members would be able to add to or modify it during the discussion phase of the review work. At its Second and Third meetings in 2005, it is proposed that the Committee hold focused discussions on topics that have been identified. Members will be encouraged to submit papers on the issues identified for consideration. To facilitate the discussion, the Secretariat will prepare factual background notes on specific topics under discussion.

6. At its First meeting in 2006, the Committee should be in a position to take stock of the discussions. To assist the Committee in this stocktaking exercise, the Secretariat will prepare a summary of the key issues discussed, under each topic identified. This draft will be factual in nature and will not contain any recommendations.

7. The Second meeting in 2006 will mark the start of the drafting phase. For that meeting, the Committee will have before it a first draft of the Fourth Triennial Review, including both the factual elements *and* any recommendations on which there is general agreement.

8. In respect of the conduct of the review work itself, it is proposed that substantive discussions pertaining to the review will normally be held in formal mode under an agenda item dedicated to the review process (currently Agenda Item 3 "Triennial Review"). After circulation and discussion of the first draft of the Fourth Triennial Review, including both the factual part and any recommendations on which there is general agreement, necessary drafting will take place in open-ended informal meetings. These meetings will, to the extent possible, be held back-to-back with the regular meetings of the Committee. The Chairman will subsequently report on the results in the formal meeting.

9. The Committee to adopt the final text of the Fourth Triennial Review at its Third meeting in 2006.

10. The work programme should be seen as flexible and may be modified in light of any new developments.

#### Work Programme for the Fourth Triennial Review

Dates / Time Frame	Proposed Action
<i>Identification phase</i>	
mid-February 2005	Preliminary identification of topics for review by delegations
<b>2-3 March 2005 Meeting</b>	Listing of topics and organization of discussion
<i>Discussion phase</i>	
end-April 2005	Circulation of Secretariat note on topics to be discussed at the next meeting
mid-May 2005	Submissions by delegations on topics to be discussed at the next meeting
<b>22-23 June 2005 Meeting</b>	Discussion on topics identified
mid-September 2005	Circulation of Secretariat note on topics to be discussed at the next meeting
mid-October 2005	Submissions by delegations on topics to be discussed at the next meeting
<b>1-3 November 2005 Meeting</b>	Discussion on topics identified
end-January 2006	Submission by delegations of proposals for recommendations
end-February 2006	Circulation by the Secretariat of draft of factual elements of the review
<b>First meeting in 2006</b>	Stocktaking: Discussion of draft of factual elements of the review as well as any proposed recommendations.
<i>Drafting phase</i>	
mid-June 2006	Circulation of first draft text of the Fourth Triennial Review, including both the factual part and any recommendations on which there is general agreement
<b>Second meeting in 2006</b>	Discussion of draft text of the Fourth Triennial Review
mid-September 2006	Circulation of the draft final text of the Fourth Triennial Review
<b>Third meeting in 2006</b>	Adoption of the final text of the Fourth Triennial Review