





Currently, there are 19 panels in the system (12 in trade remedies areas and 7 in other areas), as well as 3 appeals, 2 arbitrations, and 11 panels in composition. This is counting multiple panels like *Australia—Tobacco Plain Packaging* as 1. As of today, 6 panels in the trade remedies area stand composed but cannot get under way due to unavailability of staff.

But, it is not only the *number* of disputes that is affecting the system's ability to respond; it is the *nature* of WTO dispute settlement today that lies at

The evidentiary burden before panels is also more demanding. One ongoing dispute (not one of the aircraft disputes) had reached more than 1700 exhibits, even before holding the second meeting with the panel. On average, there are three times as many exhibits per panel now than in