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## Ministers agree on declaration that 'puts Round back on track' [back to top](#)

Ministers from the WTO's 149 member governments approved on 18 December a declaration that many described as significant progress both since the July 2004 "package" and after six days of intensive negotiations in Hong Kong which the chairperson described as "working like a dog". Despite the long hours and hard work, "it was worth it," WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy told a press conference late in the evening of the final day. "We have managed to put the Round back on track after a period of hibernation."

Hong Kong's Commerce, Industry and Technology Secretary John Tsang, who chaired the conference, outlined the achievements in the declaration:

- "We have secured an end date for all export subsidies in agriculture, even if it is not in a form to everybody's liking.



## WTO Ministers successfully approve Tonga's membership at Hong Kong Conference



The WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, on 15 December,

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### Aid for trade capacity in poorer countries up by 50 per cent since Doha

The amount of trade-related technical assistance and capacity building—to help developing and least-developed countries to participate more efficiently in international trade—has increased by 50% since the Doha Ministerial Declaration in November 2001, according to a joint report by the WTO and the OECD.

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### Recipients and donors review cooperation programme

Partner countries of JITAP, the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme, implemented jointly by the International Trade Centre, the UNCTAD and the WTO, met on 14 December on the fringes of the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference to review the programme, its impact and future needs, and share experiences.

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### The Secretariats of the WTO and UNIDO hold side-event at Hong Kong Ministerial

On the occasion of the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong, WTO and UNIDO held a side-event on 15 December on the implementation of the Joint Cooperation Agreement between WTO and UNIDO and on the UNIDO Cotton Initiative for Africa.

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### Conclusion of the 34th Trade Policy Course

On 9 December, officials from 27 countries attended the closing ceremony during which diplomas were awarded marking the end of the 34th WTO Trade Policy Course, which was held in English at WTO Headquarters from 19 September to 9 December 2005.

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### Sweden gives CHF 1.96m for assistance on SPS standards

Sweden agreed on 14 December to donate 12 ml4 0 11.5 of

## Denmark donates DKK 8.72 million to WTO technical assistance

The government of Denmark has pledged five contributions for a total of DKK 8,720,000 for which DKK 7,720,000 goes to the WTO technical assistance programmes and DKK 1,000,000 to the financing of WTO LDC members' participation in the Sixth Ministerial Conference from 13 to 18 December 2005.

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## DISPUTE SETTLEMENT [back to top](#)

### DSB agrees to extend time-period for adoption of "zeroing" panel report



The Dispute Settlement Body, on 6 December, agreed to the a request by the EC and the US for an extension, until 31 January 2006, of the time-period for adoption of the panel report on "United States – Laws, regulations and methodology for calculating dumping margins ("zeroing")" (DS162).

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### Arbitrator appointed in chicken cuts dispute

On 14 December, Mr. James Bacchus, former Member of the Appellate Body, accepted the appointment as arbitrator by Brazil, the European Communities, and Thailand to determine the reasonable period of time for implementation of the DSB's recommendations and rulings in "European Communities – Customs Classification of Frozen Boneless Chicken Cuts" (WT/DS269/12, WT/DS286/14).

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### Appellate Body issues Report on softwood lumber dispute

The Appellate Body, on 5 December, issued its Report regarding the compliance panel's rulings in the case "United States – Final countervailing duty determination with respect to certain softwood lumber from Canada" (DS257)

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### Chairman of the Appellate Body elected

The Members of the Appellate Body elected Mr. A.V. Ganesan to serve as Chairman of the Appellate Body from 17 December 2005 to 16 December 2006, following the expiry of Mr. Yasuhei Taniguchi's term as Chairman.

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