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1 ARTICLE III OF THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

1.1 Text of Article III

Article III

1. The WTO shall facilitate the implementation, administration and operation, and further the objectives, of this Agreement and of the Multilateral Trade Agreements, and shall also provide the framework for the implementation, administration and operation of the Plurilateral Trade Agreements.

2. The WTO shall provide the forum for negotiations among its Members concerning their multilateral trade relations, and a framework for the implementation of the results of such negotiations, as may be decided by the

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1.2 Article III:1

1.2.1 "implementation, administration and operation ... of the Multilateral Trade Agreements"

1.2.1.1 Circulation and derestriction of documents

1. On 14 May 2002, the General Council adopted a Decision on Procedures for the Circulation and Derestriction of Documents¹, replacing its decision of 18 July 1996 on the same subject:²

"1. All official WTO documents³ shall be unrestricted.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1,

(a) any Member may submit a document as restricted, which shall be automatically derestricted after its first consideration by the relevant body or 60 days after the date of circulation, whichever is earlier, unless requested otherwise by that Member.⁴ In the latter case, the document may remain restricted for further periods of 30 days, subject to renewed requests by that Member within each 30-day period. The Secretariat shall remind Members of such deadlines, and derestrict the document upon receipt of a written instruction. Any document may be derestricted at any time during the restriction period at the request of the Member concerned.

(b) any WTO body when requesting a document to be prepared by the Secretariat shall decide whether it shall be issued as restricted or unrestricted. Such documents which are issued as restricted shall automatically be derestricted 60 days after the date of circulation, unless requested otherwise by a Member. In the latter case, the document shall remain restricted.

WTO languages, all official WTO documents that are not restricted shall be made available via the WTO web-site to facilitate their dissemination to the public at large.^{6"7}

2. On 13 June 2006, the General Council adopted a Decision on Derestriction of Official GATT 1947 Documents, providing that "[a]ll official restricted GATT 1947 documents shall be derestricted as of 1 June 2006."⁸

1.3 Article III:2

1.3.1 "forum for negotiations among its Members"

