



## **NEWSLETTER FOR ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS**

The Fourth meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions in 2012 took place today, 30 April 2012, at the level of Heads of Delegations. The meeting took place in two parts: In the first part, it was chaired by the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on LDCs (SLDCs), Ambassador Smidt (Denmark), with the support of his Co-Chairpersons, namely, the Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR, Ambassador Yi (China) and the Chairperson of the Working Party on the Accession of Yemen, Mr. Röben (Germany). The second part was chaired by the Director of the Accessions Division, Mr. Chiedu Osakwe. Twenty-four delegations attended the meeting.

At the request of several Group Coordinators and for transparency purposes, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on LDCs, Ambassador Smidt, presented a joint Chairpersons' Report on the *informal confidential facilitation process* under way to assist the conclusion of the outstanding bilateral negotiations between Ukraine and Lao PDR; and Ukraine and Yemen. The SLDC Chairperson is co-chairing this process with Ambassador Yi, the WP Chairperson on the Accession of Lao PDR; and, Mr. Röben, the WP Chairperson on the Accession of Yemen. This confidential facilitation process was undertaken at the request of Lao PDR and Yemen in the context of the 2002 Guidelines on LDCs' Accessions and the MC8 Decision - WT/L/846 process. (See attached report RD/ACC/3). Nine Members commented on the Report of the three Chairpersons. These were: Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN Group; Haiti, on behalf of the LDCs Group; Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the GCC and the Arab Group; Pakistan, on behalf of the Asian Group; Australia; China; the EU; Turkey; and the US. Overall, Members: (i) welcomed the three Chairpersons' facilitation process and expressed their support; (ii) noted that this process strengthened and "*operationalized*" the 2002 LDC Guidelines and the recent MC8 Decision (WT/L/846); (iii) called on fellow Members to exercise flexibility in their negotiations with acceding LDCs; and (iv) encouraged an early conclusion of the bilateral negotiations of Lao PDR and Ukraine; and Yemen and Ukraine, in order to meet the WTO Membership's 2012 LDCs' accession targets. The three Chairpersons would continue to report on the state-of-play of this confidential facilitation process at: the next Working Party meetings of Yemen and Lao PDR; the Sub-Committee on LDCs; and the Informal Group.

In the second half of the meeting, the Secretariat consulted with Members on the Evolving Calendar of Accessions Meetings for 2012<sup>2</sup> (see Annex I). Mr. Osakwe briefed the IGA on: (i) the "*four + 1*" 2012 Accession Priorities: Lao PDR (LDC), Yemen (LDC); Kazakhstan, Serbia and Tajikistan; (ii) the progress in eight active accession processes; and (iii) the "Beijing 2012 Round Table on WTO Accession Best Practices" for Least-developed- T J25.56 0 TD.0003 Tc.1619 Tw[Cly]7(de Kull (Estonia), assisted) J13.4867 0 TD.0011 Tc.1611 Tw[ by]14.4( the

## ANNEX I

**ACCESSIONS MEETING SCHEDULE – EVOLVING CALENDAR<sup>3</sup> - 30 April 2012**

Date	Working Party	Meeting	Status	Room	Interpretation		Conf Office Advised
					French Spanish English	Own	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Working Party</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>		<b>Conf Office Advised</b>
					<b>French Spanish English</b>	<b>Own</b>	

[After Summer Break]