



## **NEWSLETTER FOR ACCEDING GOVERNMENTS**

The Fifth meeting of the Informal Group on Accessions in 2012 took place on 11 June 2012. Twenty-nine delegations attended the meeting. The Secretariat consulted with Members on the Evolving Calendar of Accessions Meetings for 2012<sup>2</sup>. The Director of the Accessions Division (Mr. Chiedu Osakwe) briefed the IGA on: (i) the ratification developments; (ii) the results from the 2012 "Beijing Round Table on Best Practices in WTO Accessions for LDCs"; (iii) the 2012 LDC Accession Priorities (Lao PDR and Yemen); (iv) the 2012 non-LDC Accession Priorities (Kazakhstan, Serbia and Tajikistan); (v) the progress in nine active Accession Working Parties; and (vi) technical assistance/outreach.

Members took note of the evolving calendar of accession meetings. They reiterated the standing practice that meetings should only go ahead on the basis of inputs received with sufficient time for consideration and review, normally a minimum period of 4 weeks.

The Director of the Accessions Division provided a summary report on the results and outcomes of the "Beijing Round Table", hosted by the Government of China, organized by the WTO Secretariat and opened by Director-General Pascal Lamy, H.E. Minister Chen, Minister of Commerce of China, and the LDCs' Coordinator (Haiti). He informed Members that LDCs' participants adopted a "Beijing Statement". At the request of LDCs, this statement has been circulated as a document of the General Council; the Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries; the Working Party on the Accession of Lao PDR; and, the Working Party on the Accession of Yemen (WT/L/856, WT/COMTD/LDC/20, WT/ACC/LAO/35, and WT/ACC/YEM/36) on 6 June. The Ambassador of Haiti, on behalf of the LDC Group, commended the Secretariat for the excellent organization of the Round Table and the Government of China for its leadership on LDCs' accessions. Supportive statements of the Round Table, the contributions of China and the Secretariat were made by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Lesotho (for the African Group).

Members were briefed on the technical state-of-play of: the two 2012 LDC Accession Priorities (Lao PDR and Yemen); and, two 2012 non-LDC Accession Priorities (Kazakhstan and Tajikistan). The IGA was also briefed on nine other active accessions (Afgh