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Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, as chairperson of the Trade Negotiations Committee, has called on members to move away from defensive positions in order to meet rapidly approaching deadlines. He was reporting to the WTO General Council on 15 October 2002.

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[n](#) [Immediate priority is the start of substantive negotiations – Dr. Supachai](#)
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Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, in his first [press conference](#) held on 2 September, said his immediate priority is the start of substantive negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. "We have no time to waste," he said. In a [speech](#) at the General Assembly of the Swiss Bankers Association on 20 September in Basel, he announced "four pillars" aimed at strengthening the WTO and helping bring the Doha Development Agenda to a timely and successful conclusion:

"My first pillar is the legal framework which binds the multilateral trading system together. The WTO is the only international organization dealing with multilateral rules of trade between countries. These rules ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. I intend to ensure that the Secretariat continues to be as helpful as possible to WTO Members to use this legal framework to their best mutual advantage".

"My second pillar is to assist developing and least developed countries through technical assistance and capacity building to be better equipped to participate in the multilateral trading system. The WTO has taken on an unprecedented level of commitment in providing technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries. It is one of my priorities to ensure that our technical assistance and capacity building activities are effective, well targeted and coordinated with other agencies to get the best results".

"As for my third pillar, I will seek to promote greater coherence in international economic policy-making. The reality of globalization is an increasingly

interdependent world. The WTO cannot possibly achieve its goals working alone. The WTO, in keeping with its mandate, has to work closely along with other international agencies”.

“Lastly but most importantly, I intend to strengthen the WTO as an institution, so as to be able to serve its membership even better. My approach as Director-General will be equitable, balanced and inclusive. And I will support and encourage the work of Members in every way and at every level I can”.

[n](#) **DDGs take up posts** [volver al principio](#)



The four new Deputy Directors-General took up their posts on 1 October. In addition to the responsibilities for the Divisions allocated to them, the Director-General assigned to each of the DDGs “a leading role in coordinating one of the four broad, horizontal themes that I have set out as my priorities”. Following consultations with WTO member governments, Dr. Supachai, on 16 August, announced the selection of the following persons who will serve as his Deputy Directors-General for three years starting on 1 October 2002: Messrs. Roderick Abbot (United Kingdom), Kipkorir Aly Azad Rana (Kenya), Francisco Thompson-Flôres (Brazil) and Rufus Yerxa (United States).

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[n](#) **Director-General underlines WTO's contribution to sustainable development** [volver al principio](#)



The Director-General, in a [speech](#) at the High-Level Special Roundtable of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 3 September in Johannesburg, stressed that “WTO's contribution to sustainable development goes beyond raising incomes and helping to alleviate poverty,” citing ongoing negotiations on agriculture and fishery subsidies as well as on WTO's relationship with environmental agreements.

[n](#) **Commission report is food for thought on intellectual property – Supachai** [volver al principio](#)



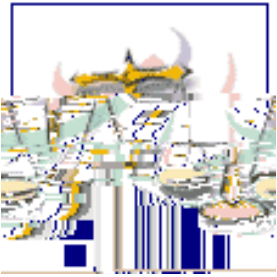
Director-General Supachai said on 16 September that the report by the UK Commission on Intellectual Property Rights makes an important contribution to the debate on how developing countries can best make use of the WTO agreement and its flexibilities, and how the international framework might be improved.

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In August, the World Health Organization and the WTO Secretariat published a joint study of the relationship between trade rules and public health. The 171-page study “WTO Agreements and Public Health” explains how WTO Agreements relate to different aspects of health policies. It is meant to give a better insight into key issues for those who develop, communicate or debate policy issues related to trade and health. The study covers areas such as drugs and intellectual property rights, food safety, tobacco and many other issues which have been subject to passionate debate.

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[Panel on EC steel measures established](#) [volver al principio](#)



The Dispute Settlement Body, on 16 September 2002, [established a panel](#) to examine the United States' complaint concerning the European Communities' provisional safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products. In September 2002, the WTO released the following dispute-settlement reports: the Appellate Body reports on, respectively, [EC's trade description of sardines](#) and on [Chile's agriculture measures](#), and the panel report on the [US "Byrd Amendment"](#).

[WTO reviews trade policies of Mauritania, Australia](#) [volver al principio](#)



WTO members, at the conclusion of their first review of [Mauritania's trade policies](#) on 13 September 2002, commended the country for its ambitious structural reforms aimed at reducing poverty. Mauritania stressed the importance it attaches to trade liberalization as a development instrument. On 23 and 25 September 2002, they commended Australia's global orientation and its active role in the WTO. [Australia's trade regime](#) was praised for being largely open and transparent but a number of concerns were raised, including on SPS and tariff peaks.

[Working Party completes work on the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#) [volver al principio](#)



The Working Party on the Accession of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia successfully held its final meeting on 17 September. The Working