

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/BFA/57  
11 April 2002

(02-1963)

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## Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration

### REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2002

1. The WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration met on 18 March 2002 under the successive chairmanship of Ambassador Mr. A. Supperamaniam and Mr. Neil McMillan. The terms of reference and composition of the Committee are set out in document WT/L/44/Rev.1. The agenda contained in document WTO/AIR/1737 was adopted.

#### I. INACTIVE MEMBERS

2. Following the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee of the World Trade Organization on the issue of Members in Category IV of the administrative measures, the Secretariat prepared a list of Members which have accumulated, as at 5 March 2002, three or more years of arrears up to and including the financial year of 2002 (document WT/BFA/W/67).

3. Consequently, in accordance with paragraph 7(b) of document PC/7, L/7578, **the Committee recommends to the General Council that the following Members be urged to liquidate their arrears:**

Antigua and Barbuda	Guinea-Bissau
Burundi	Malawi
Central African Republic	Mali
Chad	Mauritania
Congo	Niger
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Rwanda
Djibouti	Sierra Leone
Gambia	Togo
Guinea	Zambia

#### II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

4. The Chairperson recalled that the Chairman of the General Council had carried out informal consultations on the appointment of Chairpersons to the different WTO standing bodies in accordance with the established guidelines for such officers. On the basis of the understanding reached, Ambassador Mr. Supperamaniam proposed that the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration formally elect Mr. Neil McMillan, of the United Kingdom, as chairperson of the Committee by acclamation. The Committee so agreed.

5. The elected Chairman assumed the Chair and thanked the Committee for its confidence. Members expressed appreciation to Ambassador Mr. Supperamaniam for the work he had undertaken for the Committee in 2002 and looked forward to a fruitful year.

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### **III. WORKPLAN FOR 2002**

6. The Chairman introduced document CRP(02)01, which provided a tentative schedule for the meetings of the Committee in 2002. He indicated that the dates of the meetings were arranged to fit in with the General Council meetings and the overall schedule of meetings according to the guidelines agreed in the General Council. The items indicated were those identified to date; additional issues which may necessitate discussion would be added to the proposed schedule as they arose. With regard to the presentation of documents, the Secretariat would undertake to make available as many documents as possible in the three official languages at the same time. The document CRP(02)01 was an example. Referring to document CRP(02)02, the Chairman requested Members who would like to receive Committee documents in electronic form to submit their electronic addresses to the Secretariat. It was noted that documents in hard form would continue to be distributed in the mailboxes of the WTO.

7. One Member recalled his request for discussion of personnel and staffing policy more generally (including the paper entitled Personnel Management and Career Development Policies in the WTO Secretariat (Administrative Memorandum 934) which was originally provided to the Committee as Annex 3 of document CRP((01)20 dated 10 October 2001), he further requested that the relevant paper on staffing of the WTO Secretariat be distributed in good time so that the delegates would have time to examine the document prior to discussion in the Committee. Another Member requested that information be provided on the Performance Award System during the course of the year. With regard to a query on the situation of the proposed new WTO annexe (see WT/BFA/56, paragraphs 61-65), the Secretariat stated that it would keep the Committee informed on the matter.

8. The Committee took note of the tentative schedule of the Committee and the comments from Members.

**POINTS FOR DECISION: Paragraph 3.**

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