
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fourth Session
Doha, 9 - 13 November 2001

Original: English

**DECISION TO AMEND THE UNDERSTANDING ON RULES AND PROCEDURES
GOVERNING THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

Communication from the Philippines and Thailand

The following draft decision has been received from the Philippines and Thailand with the request that it be circulated for consideration at the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference.

Draft Decision

The Ministerial Conference,

Having regard to Articles IV:2 and X:8 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ("WTO Agreement");

Considering that the WTO dispute settlement rules and procedures have proved an effective and important instrument for ensuring stability and predictability in international trade relations;

Considering, however, that the dispute settlement rules and procedures could be further improved; and

Taking into account the Proposal to Amend the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes submitted to it by the Philippines and Thailand;¹

Decides as follows:

1. The General Council, exercising the functions of the Ministerial Conference pursuant to Article IV:2 of the WTO Agreement, shall take a decision to approve an amendment to Annex 2 of that Agreement, the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Philippines and Thailand¹, at a meeting to be held no later than [...].

2. The decision taken by the General Council pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Decision shall constitute an amendment to the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes pursuant to Article X:8 of the WTO Agreement. This amendment shall take effect for all Members upon the date of the decision taken pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Decision.

¹ WT/MIN(01)/W/3 and Corr.1 dated 9 October 2001.