

**UNITED STATES – CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND APPLICATION
OF ZEROING METHODOLOGY**

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 14 December 2007, addressed to the Chairman of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated pursuant to Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates that the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date that the final report is issued to the parties, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU states that when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the DSB in writing of the reasons for the delay, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel on *United States – Continued Existence and Application of zeroing Methodology (DS350)* was established by the DSB on 4 June 2007 and composed on 6 July 2007.

As you may recall, I have informed you in October 2007 that it would not be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months in light of scheduling conflicts. The Panel indicated that it was expecting to complete its work in June 2008.

Please note that due to the resignation of Ms Lilia R. Bautista in November 2007, further delays are unavoidable.

The Panel expects to complete its work in September 2008.
