

REPORT (2010) OF THE COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

1. The Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", was established pursuant to the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (WT/MIN(96)/16), hereinafter referred to as "the Ministerial Declaration", and the provisions for the Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (G/L/160), in order to carry out the provisions of paragraphs 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Annex to the Declaration.
2. The Committee has held two formal meetings in 2010: i.e. on 8 July and 11 November. The minutes of these meetings are contained in documents G/IT/M/51 and G/IT/M/52 (to be issued). Mr. Tomohiro Kaneko (Japan) was elected Chairman of the Committee for 2010.
3. The total number of participants to the Ministerial Declaration is seventy-three (73). At the meeting of 8 July 2010, the Committee agreed that the ITA schedule of Kuwait be deemed to be approved unless any participant would notify in writing to the Secretariat within two weeks from the circulation of Kuwait's ITA schedule. On 13 September 2010, it was confirmed that the ITA schedule of Kuwait was formally approved and therefore, Kuwait became the 73rd participant to the Ministerial Declaration. The Committee's rules of procedure provide for observer status in the Committee for WTO Members which are not participants to the Ministerial Declaration and governments that are observers to the Council for Trade in Goods. Requests for observer status by international intergovernmental organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. The International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have been granted observer status; and the World Customs Organization (WCO) has been granted observer status to meetings where the issues of HS classification and HS amendments are included in the agenda.
4. The Committee continued its deliberations on the Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) Work Programme. With regard to its work on the EMC/EMI Pilot Project, the Committee took note that among the 46 participants, 24 of them have provided their survey responses and encouraged those who had not provided the information to do so without any further delay. In considering ways to advance and expand its work on NTMs other than EMC/EMI, the Committee also heard reports and updates by participants on their contributions to the work on NTMs, including those in other bodies of the WTO, e.g., in the NGMA.
5. The Committee further continued its work on classification divergences. In this respect, the Committee heard a report on the Chairman's subsequent consultations with the Participants and the follow-ups since the Committee meeting of 30 October 2008. The Committee also discussed on how to advance the Committee's work on classification divergences.
6. At the meeting of 11 November 2010, the Committee, at the request of the European Union, discussed, in an informal mode, the proposal tabled by the European Union in September 2008 (G/IT/W/28) concerning the review of ITA. The Chair reported to the Committee that as a result of

the discussions that took place in the informal mode, participants were open to continue the discussions on the review process, and agreed to revert to this issue at the next meeting.

7. The Committee has consistently reviewed the status of implementation, a summary of which is provided in document G/IT/1 and its revisions. The document noted that most participants had submitted the formal documentation for rectification and modification of their WTO schedules in order to incorporate the commitments arising from the Ministerial Declaration and most had been certified by the Director General. Two participants were still awaiting the completion of domestic procedural requirements or had not yet submitted the necessary documentation.

8. The Chairman regularly informed the Committee under "Other Business" that participants continued to consult among themselves on review of product coverage. He encouraged delegations to continue their efforts.
