



Trade Facts

Office of the United States Trade Representative
July 2008

www.ustr.gov

DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

WHAT IS THE DDA?

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda (DDA) has been at the center of the Administration's trade policy since this multilateral negotiating round was launched in Doha, Qatar in 2001. The DDA is the ninth successive round of multilateral trade negotiations to be carried out since 1948. The goal of the DDA is to reduce trade barriers in order to expand global economic growth, development, and opportunity. The main focus of the negotiations under the DDA is in the following areas: agriculture; industrial market access; services; trade facilitation; WTO rules (i.e., trade remedies, fish subsidies, and regional trade agreements); and development.

WTO: IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE DDA

November 9, 2001 Doha Ministerial

WTO Members launched the Doha Round, with the goal of incorporating developing countries into the international trading system.

September 10, 2003 Cancun Ministerial

At the Cancun Ministerial, Members were unable to reach a consensus on the way forward on the main issues negotiated under the Doha Round.

July 13, 2004 Geneva Mini-Ministerial

As a result of U.S. efforts to reinvigorate the negotiations, Members reached a "Framework-Agreement," which addressed issues such as NAMA flexibilities and the elimination of agricultural export subsidies.

October 10, 2005 U.S. proposal for Agriculture Negotiations

The United States tabled a comprehensive proposal for the agriculture negotiations to eliminate all tariffs and subsidies in a two-phase process. The proposal was contingent on others adopting these bold reforms.

December 13, 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial

At the Hong Kong Ministerial, limited progress was made. In NAMA, the Swiss formula to calculate NAMA tariff cuts was agreed to by WTO Members as the “standard formula.”

July 27, 2006 Suspension of Negotiations

A July 2006 gathering of trade ministers in Geneva highlighted the wide gap that existed on fundamental questions about securing a meaningful market opening DDA outcome. Director-General Lamy recommended to the WTO General Council on July 27, 2006, that the Doha Round negotiations be suspended.

July 2006 – July 2007 Resuming Negotiations

After the July 2006 suspension, the United States led the way over the following months to revive the DDA negotiations. This resulted in an informal resumption of negotiations in Geneva before the close of the year. On January 31, 2007, Director-General Lamy called for a “full resumption” of negotiations.

Agriculture and NAMA Negotiating Texts

The Chairs of the Agriculture and NAMA negotiating groups circulated initial draft texts for the “modalities” (the frameworks and formalities needed to be agreed upon in order to move the negotiations into the final phase) on July 17, 2007. Revised draft texts were issued on February 8, 2008, May 19, 2008, and July 10, 2008.

Elements of a Services Negotiating Text

The Chair of the Services negotiating group circulated an initial report on the elements required for the completion of the services negotiations on February 13, 2008. A revision was issued on May 26, 2008.

Draft Rules Negotiating Text

The Chair of the Rules negotiating group issued texts on antidumping, subsidies and countervailing measures, and fisheries subsidies on November 30, 2007.

July 21, 2008 Geneva Ministers Meetings

Ministers and other senior officials will meet in Geneva the week of July 21, 2008, in an effort to reach agreement that will establish modalities for Agriculture and NAMA, allowing negotiations to enter the final phase of work. Ministers will also meet in a special conference to signal future offers and set the services negotiations on a path to a strong market-opening outcome.