

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.TNC/LD/1  
30 January 1992

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Trade Negotiations Committee

Legal Drafting Group

MEETING OF 23 JANUARY 1992

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Legal Drafting Group held its first meeting on 23 January 1992 under the Chairmanship of Mr. M.G. Mathur.
2. The Chairman recalled that this Drafting Group had been established by the Trade Negotiations Committee at its meeting of 13 January 1992 (MTN.TNC/25), to carry forward the work under "Track Three" to ensure the legal conformity and internal consistency of the Draft Final Act Embodying the Results of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, circulated on 20 December 1991 (MTN.TNC/W/FA). At that meeting it had been emphasized by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee that this process should not lead to changes in the balance of rights and obligations established in the agreements.
3. The Chairman further said that the work of the Group was not to negotiate, but essentially to put the negotiated texts into good order. For that purpose, the Group had to deal with such inconsistencies or inadvertent legal ambiguities as might exist in the text of each agreement, and between agreements, that could affect the implementation of these agreements, and the effective application of rights and obligations contained in them. The Group was working within the same time-frame as those engaged in substantive negotiations, which meant that it must conclude its work as soon as those negotiations were completed.
4. The Group had an exchange of views on the question of organization and the programme of its future work. It noted the need to conduct discussions in a manner that would ensure transparency.
5. The Chairman proposed that, in order to proceed with the work of the Group, the secretariat circulate (i) an initial and informal list of technical corrections to the English, French and Spanish texts of the document MTN.TNC/W/FA for the purposes of the Group; (ii) a list of points for possible consideration in the Group, taking into account the points suggested by participants at the present meeting; and (iii) a consolidated text on Integrated Dispute Settlement Understanding, based on Sections S and T of the Draft Final Act.
6. The Group agreed with the proposal and to proceed in the manner suggested by the Chairman.
7. The Chairman concluded the meeting, noting that the meetings of the Group would be concentrated in intensive sessions and that the next meeting of the Group would be held on 5-7 February 1992.