

The Journey from Doha to Bali

A presentation by
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The Genesis of the DDA

- 1994- Conclusion of the Uruguay Round- Considered to be the last comprehensive multilateral Round.
- US wanted more market access in NAMA and Services after 1995, though not keen to start another comprehensive Round
- 1996- Singapore Ministerial- EU spearheaded demand for 4 Singapore Issues (Trade Facilitation, Transparency in Government Procurement, Investment and Competition) ; Labour and Environment also discussed

The Genesis of DDA (contd.)

- 1999- Seattle Ministerial- WTO being considered a hand maiden of big business, protests outside venue, Ministerial not managed well- concluded without a Declaration
- Afterwards Developing Countries step up demand for closure on Implementation Issues, conclusion of unfinished business in Agriculture
- 9/11 Attack used as an excuse to kick start a new Round- called a Development Round in afterthought

Doha Declaration- a false dawn?

- EU main driver- US persuaded to join in later. Developed Countries demand to balance Agriculture with NAMA and Services Market Access. Development and Implementation Issues added on by developing countries
- Rules- Anti Dumping, Fisheries Subsidies added to agenda
- Dispute Settlement Understanding Reforms discussion started earlier. Added to agenda
- Environment and TRIPS added on
- Single Undertaking- para 47- agreements could be implemented on provisional or definitive basis

Showdown at Cancun (2003)

- Sharp differences between US/EU and G20 and other developing countries on Agriculture and Cotton- S&D Treatment
- Pursuit of the 4 Singapore Issues by the US/EU also a major precipitating factor
- No outcome on Implementation Issues or Agreement Specific Proposals
- No Ministerial Declaration

July Framework (2004)- Patching up

- Compromise worked out in different areas
- Agriculture- Tiered formula in Market Access- with Sensitive Products for EU and G10, Domestic Support and Export Subsidies reduction, S&D – Special Products, Special Safeguard Mechanism
- NAMA- Non linear formula approach accepted, Sectoral Initiative also to be a part
- Services- Market Access discussions to be intensified
- Trade Facilitation- To be part of DDA at last. Other Singapore Issues dropped till the conclusion of DDA

Hong Kong Ministerial (2005)- rising hopes

- Agriculture- Further fleshing out of July Framework decisions
- NAMA- Swiss Formula to be the basis for non-linear reduction of tariffs
- Services- Plurilateral approach to supplement bilateral request offer approach
- December 2006 set for the completion of modalities

The lost years (2006-10)

- Major differences persist among US/EU and Developing countries- FIPS (2006); G4 initiative(2007)
- No Ministerial could be held in 2007
- An informal Mini-Ministerial of 20+ Ministers held in July 2008 collapsed on account of lack of consensus on a range of issues- SSM, Cotton, NAMA Sectorals; Also lame duck US Presidency unable to negotiate meaningfully with developing countries
- Global Economic Crisis (September 2008) severely reduced negotiating space of all countries
- 2009- Lack of credible multilateral trade agenda of new US administration
- No major decisions taken in 2009 Geneva Ministerial

Geneva Ministerial 2011- sombre reflection

- Single Undertaking not possible to achieve in the near term
- Areas where progress can be made should be focussed on- low hanging fruit?
- Priority to be given to development and to issues of interest to the poorest countries

Bali Ministerial 2013- live to fight another day?

- Trade Facilitation Agreement the only notable harvest-first multilateral agreement concluded in the WTO since its inception
- Agriculture- Weak agreement on TRQ Administration, Best Endeavour agreement on Export Competition, Loose Agreement on Food Security
- S&D Monitoring Mechanism- large scale duplication of existing mandate of CTD
- 4 Best Endeavour LDC Agreements-Cotton, DFQF, Rules of Origin, Services Waiver



Thank You