

## Chronology of WTO Ministerial Conferences

Ministerial Conference is the highest decision making body of WTO. Following the Uruguay Round – which resulted in formation of World Trade Organization in 1995, the following Ministerial Conferences have taken place:

| <i>Dates</i>                  | <i>Venue</i>                   | <i>Issues debated</i>   | <i>Results</i>  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 9~13<br>Dec<br>1996           | <b>Singapore</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of operations post WTO</li> <li>• Discussions on controversial issues : core labor standards, investment and competition policy, government procurement</li> <li>• Information Technology</li> <li>• Implementation issues of Agreements on Agriculture and Textiles</li> </ul> <p><i>For Official documents, Ministerial declaration, Statements etc.</i><br/> <a href="http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min96_e/min96_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min96_e/min96_e.htm</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion of ‘Information Technology Agreement’</li> <li>• Working Groups on               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trade &amp; investment</li> <li>- Trade &amp; competition</li> <li>- Government procurement (these are generally termed as Singapore issues)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Trade &amp; Environment Committee becomes part of WTO</li> <li>• Plan of action to assist LDCs</li> <li>• The Committee on Trade and Environment was established as a permanent body of the WTO.</li> </ul> |
| 18~20<br>May<br>1998          | <b>Geneva</b><br>(Switzerland) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation concerns of developing and LDCs</li> <li>• Electronic Commerce</li> </ul> <p><i>For Official documents, Ministerial declaration, Statements etc.</i><br/> <a href="http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min98_e/min98_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min98_e/min98_e.htm</a></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanism for evaluation of the implementation of individual agreements</li> <li>• Adoption of declaration on Global electronic Commerce</li> </ul>  |
| 30 Nov<br>~ 30<br>Dec<br>1999 | <b>Seattle</b><br>(USA)        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agriculture, textiles and anti-dumping</li> <li>• Core labour standards</li> <li>• Programme on new round of negotiations</li> </ul> <p><i>For Official documents, Ministerial declaration, Statements etc.</i><br/> <a href="http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min99_e/min99_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min99_e/min99_e.htm</a></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abandoned; huge demonstration against new round; talks Suspended;</li> <li>• No declaration</li> </ul>   |
| 9~14<br>Nov                   | <b>Doha</b><br>(Qatar)         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRIPS &amp; Public health</li> <li>• Implementation related</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration diluting TRIPS on public health grounds</li> </ul>   |

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| 2001 |  | <p>concerns of developing countries &amp; LDCs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of new round</li> </ul> <p><i>For Official documents, Ministerial declaration, Statements etc.</i><br/> <a href="http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/min01_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/min01_e.htm</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision on implementation concerns on UR Agreements divided into 14 sections on Agriculture, SPS Measures, Textiles and Clothing, TBT, TRIMS, Anti-dumping, Customs Valuation, Rules of Origin, SCMs, and TRIPS.</li> <li>• Negotiating Mandate: Launch of Doha Development Round - Consisting of seven items altogether: implementation, agriculture, services, market access for non-agricultural products, trade and environment, WTO rules, TRIPS and dispute settlement. The first six of these items are to constitute a single undertaking with January 1, 2005 as the deadline for completion.</li> </ul> |
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**The 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference is to be held in Cancun (Mexico) from 10~14 Sept 2003.**