

Overview of WTO

January 2005

Customs and Tariff Bureau
Ministry of Finance

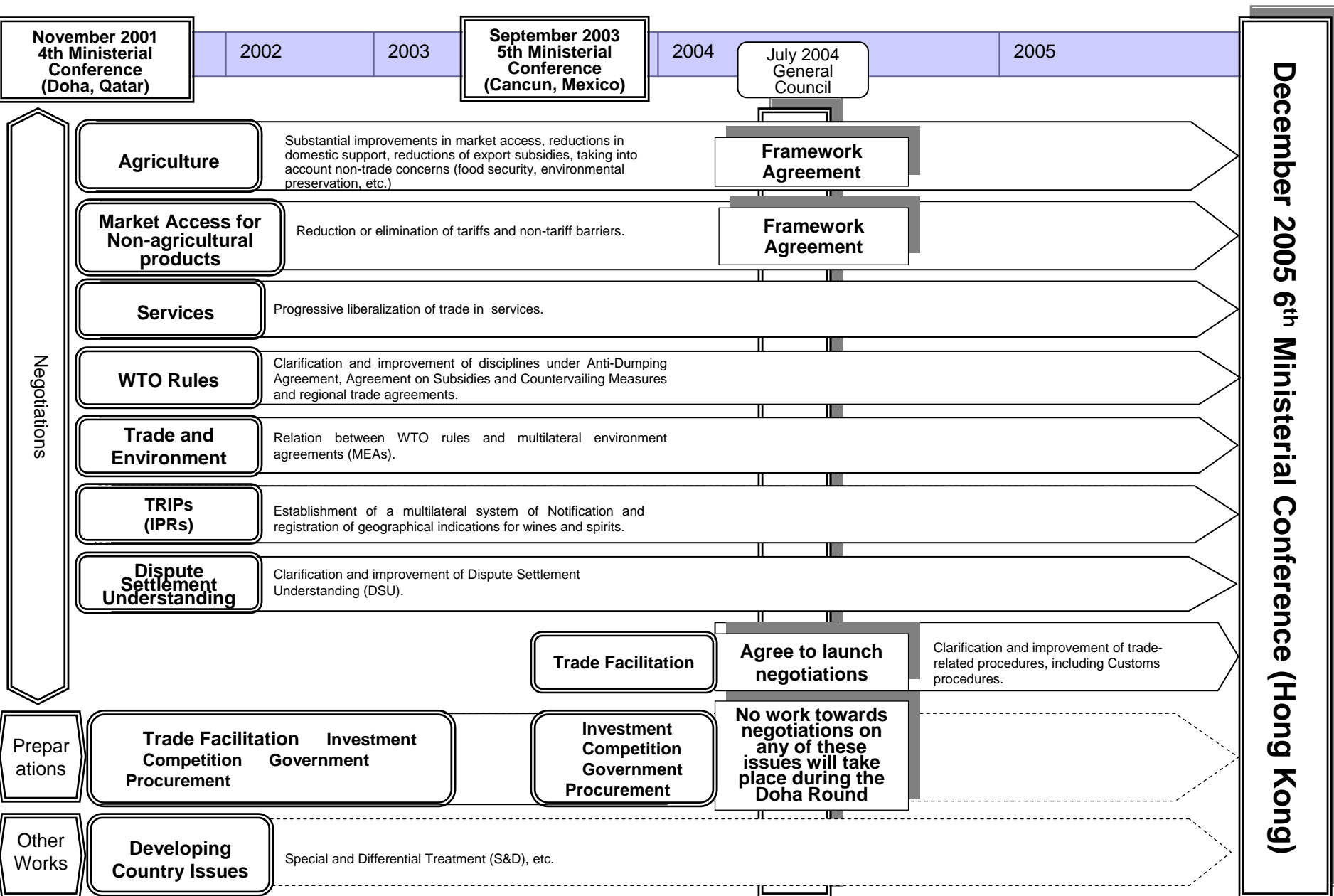
1. History of GATT Trade Negotiations

Period	Negotiations	Participating Members	Result of Negotiations	
			Tariff Reduction (No. of Lines)	Trade Rules
1947	First	23	45,000	-
1949	Second	32	5,000	-
1950-51	Third	34	8,700	-
1956	Fourth	22	3,000	-
1960-62	Dillon Round	26	4,400	-
1964-67	Kennedy Round	47	30,300	-Agreement on Anti-Dumping -Commodity Agreements etc.
1973-79	Tokyo Round	100	33,000	-Customs Valuation Code -Code on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
1986-1994	Uruguay Round	125	305,000	-General Agreement on Trade in Services -Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)

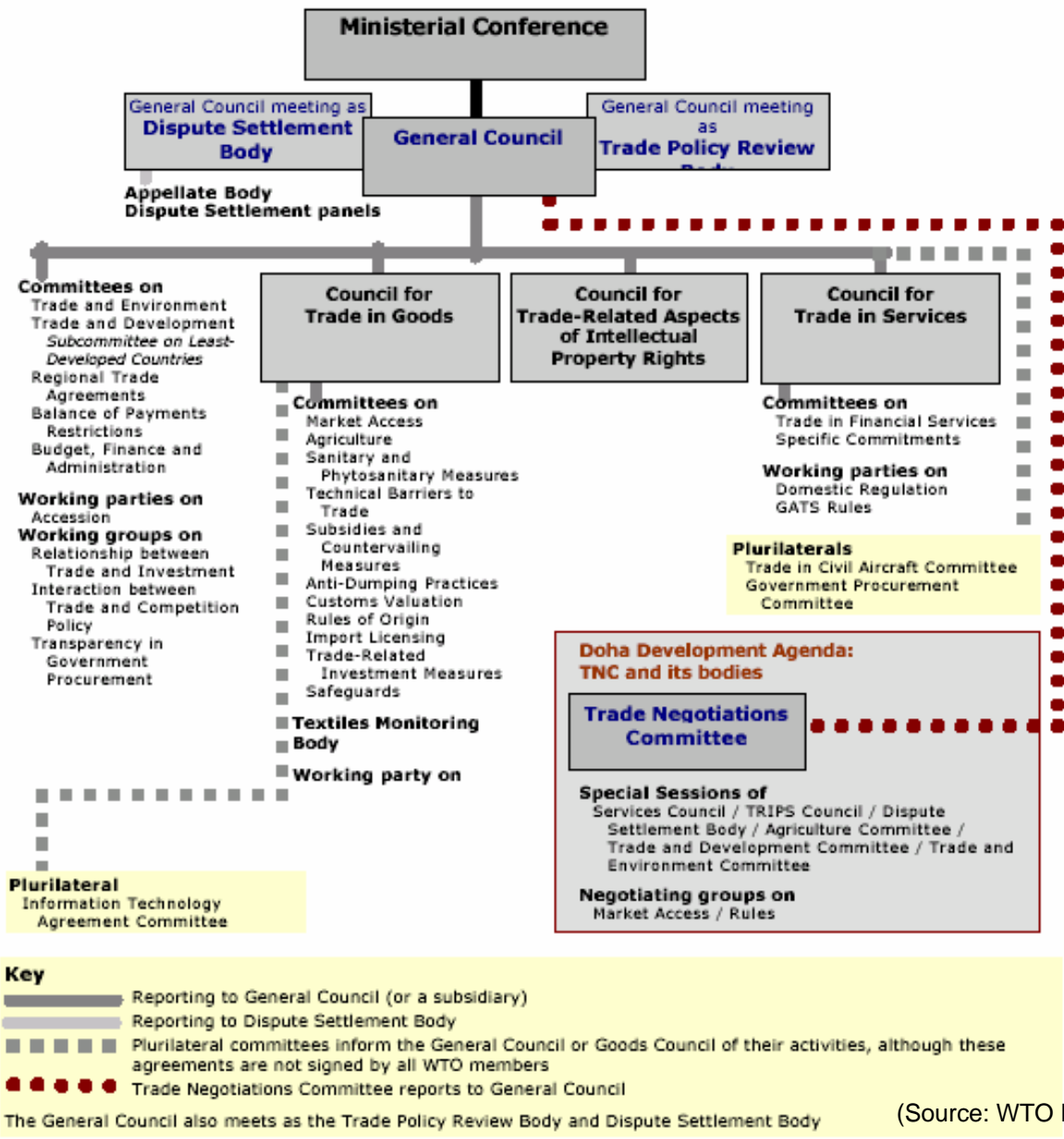
-Dillon (then US Undersecretary of State), Kennedy (then US President) are those who proposed the launching of a new round.

-Tokyo and Uruguay are the place where Ministerial Conference was held when members agreed to launch the new round.

2. Timeframe of the WTO New Round



3. Structure of the WTO New Round



(Source: WTO Homepage at www.wto.org)

4. WTO General Council Decision on the Doha Work Programme

In the WTO General Council session, held from 27 July 2004 to 1 August 2004, a decision that would form the basis of future multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Work Programme (Doha Round) was adopted among the WTO Members. The summary of this decision is as follows.

1. Agriculture
2. Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA)
3. New Issues (Singapore Issues)
4. Other issues
5. Upcoming committee

4. WTO General Council Decision on the Doha Work Programme

1. Agriculture

- Market access
 - Tariff reductions will be made through a tiered formula, which will be achieved through deeper cuts in higher tariffs.
 - Substantial improvements in market access will be achieved for all products.
 - The role of a tariff cap in a tiered formula with distinct treatment for sensitive products will be further evaluated.
 - Flexibilities for sensitive products shall be admitted in application of the formula.
 - The number of sensitive products and criteria for tariff quota expansion is to be negotiated.

- The overall base level of all trade-distorting domestic support will be reduced according to a tiered formula, and all forms of export subsidies will be eliminated by a credible end date.

4. WTO General Council Decision on the Doha Work Programme

2. Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA)

- The Framework contains the initial elements (such as the formula, the treatment of unbound tariffs and the elimination of sectorial tariff etc.) for future work on modalities. Additional negotiations are required to reach agreement on the specifics of some of these elements.
- The Negotiating Group should continue its work on a non-linear formula applied on a line-by-line basis.
- Product coverage shall be comprehensive without *a priori* exclusions
- Discussions will be pursued with a view to defining product coverage, on participation, etc. in the sectorial tariff elimination or harmonization.

4. WTO General Council Decision on the Doha Work Programme

3. New Issues (Singapore Issues)

- Commencement of negotiation on Trade Facilitation on the basis of the modalities set out in [Annex D](#), aiming at simplification etc. of trade procedures including customs procedures.
- Relationship between Trade and Investment, Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy and Transparency in Government Procurement will not form part of the Work Programme set out in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and therefore no work towards negotiations on any of these issues will take place within the WTO during the Doha Round.

Trade facilitation

Annex D

4. WTO General Council Decision on the Doha Work Programme

4. Other issues

- Concerns of developing countries are to be duly taken into account.
- The General Council takes note of the reports by the Chairs of negotiating groups, such as service and WTO rules (on anti-dumping, etc.).

5. Upcoming committee

- The Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference will be held in Hong Kong, China in December 2005.