

Seminar 2: Key Sectoral Issues and Domestic Regulation

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Domestic regulation negotiations – chronological overview (24/2/2015, AHL, WTO)

1999: Decision on Domestic Regulation creates WPDR

2001: Doha Declaration: Single undertaking + services negotiations “with a view to promoting the economic growth of all trading partners and the development of developing and least-developed countries”

2005: Hong Kong Declaration: “Members shall develop disciplines on domestic regulation pursuant to the mandate under Article VI:4 of the GATS before the end of the current round of negotiations. We call upon Members to develop a text for adoption.”

2006: Chairman’s text JOB(06)/225: Based on, and comprehensive of, text proposals by Members + containing alternative formulations on key elements

2007: Chairman’s Draft April 2007: Text accepted by all Members as basis for negotiation + Intensive paragraph-by-paragraph consultations in July and September 2007

2008: Chairman’s Draft January 2008: Overall modest changes to first draft, no change in level of ambition + Discussions in February, May 2008

2009: Chairman’s Draft March 2009: Again modest changes, no change in level of ambition + Discussions in June, September, October, November and December 2009 and February 2010 (Room document, 20 March 2009)

2010: Annotated Text (RD/SERV/10): Chairperson produced text in March 2010 aimed at capturing factually the discussions that took place in the Working Party and the textual proposals made between June 2009 and February 2010 + some suggestions to help facilitate future discussions

2011: Attempt to create a ‘bracketed text’: General Council December 2010 called for development of text by end of first quarter of 2011. Members agree to approach Chair’s text of March 2009 with a ‘new mind-set’: identifying clearly where agreement and where still difficulties (‘sweeping’). Intensification of negotiations to create ‘bracketed text’ but no final result achieved. A Chairman’s Progress Report (S/WPDR/W/45, 14 April 2011) was issued.

2011 – 2014: Working Party has been in a phase of technical discussions based on 93 questions submitted by Members. Informal summaries on the discussions up to 2013 have been compiled by the Chairman in JOB/SERV/173, 27 January 2014.