

***Recent development on fisheries subsidies'
negotiations and prospects for WTO MC 12***

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1. Why has an agreement in fisheries remained so elusive?

Negotiations were launched almost two decades ago, but inherent tensions in some elements



First: "triple win" potential (trade-development-environment)



Second: Sustainable development, not trade distortion, as a central purpose



Third: Disciplines subject to Dispute Settlement procedures.

Two recent mandates: SDG 14.6 (2015), and MC11 (2017)

2. What have been the recent developments in the WTO Fisheries' subsidies negotiations?

- ✓ The Group has not slid back since MC11; progress, albeit constant, has proceeded at slow pace
- ✓ Confidence building:
 - Incubator Groups
 - Facilitator-led conversations
 - Texts/working documents
- ✓ January-July 2019: 14 new textual proposals, 3 concept/discussion papers
- ✓ HoDs meeting of 17th of July, endorsement to:
 - Start discussions in September, use working papers as a reference
 - Four one-week meetings for Sept-Dec
 - Intensify intersessional work
- ✓ Accelerating work will be a major challenge: Members must move out of their comfort zones, allow for testing new formulations/approaches.

3. Prospects for the negotiations.

- ✓ The Group is entering a new phase that will hopefully lead to the end game, pressure will only increase
- ✓ The group will have to make more use of the facilitators to help articulate their work.
- ✓ Stepping up pressure on the process is fundamental
- ✓ Any deal **will not** suffice.
- ✓ Three main components of an outcome:
 - **Sustainability.**
 - **Flexibility**
 - **Transparency**



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