



# The Doha Negotiations

## Preparation of Schedules of Agricultural Commitments

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# Legal Framework



**Modalities  
+  
Supporting  
Tables**

## Legally Binding Commitments

**Agreement on Agriculture**

**Schedules of Commitments**

**Other WTO Agreements**

**Protocol of Accession**

**ACC/4**



# Scheduling Process



- Each Member should submit to the Secretariat an electronic version of its comprehensive draft schedule (ECDS)
- To facilitate the preparation of the ECDS, Members provided with an electronic negotiating file (ENF) prepared by the Secretariat
- ENF contains Members existing concessions and any relevant material required by the modalities
  - The ENFs will be based on data available in the CTS and IDB

# Scheduling Process

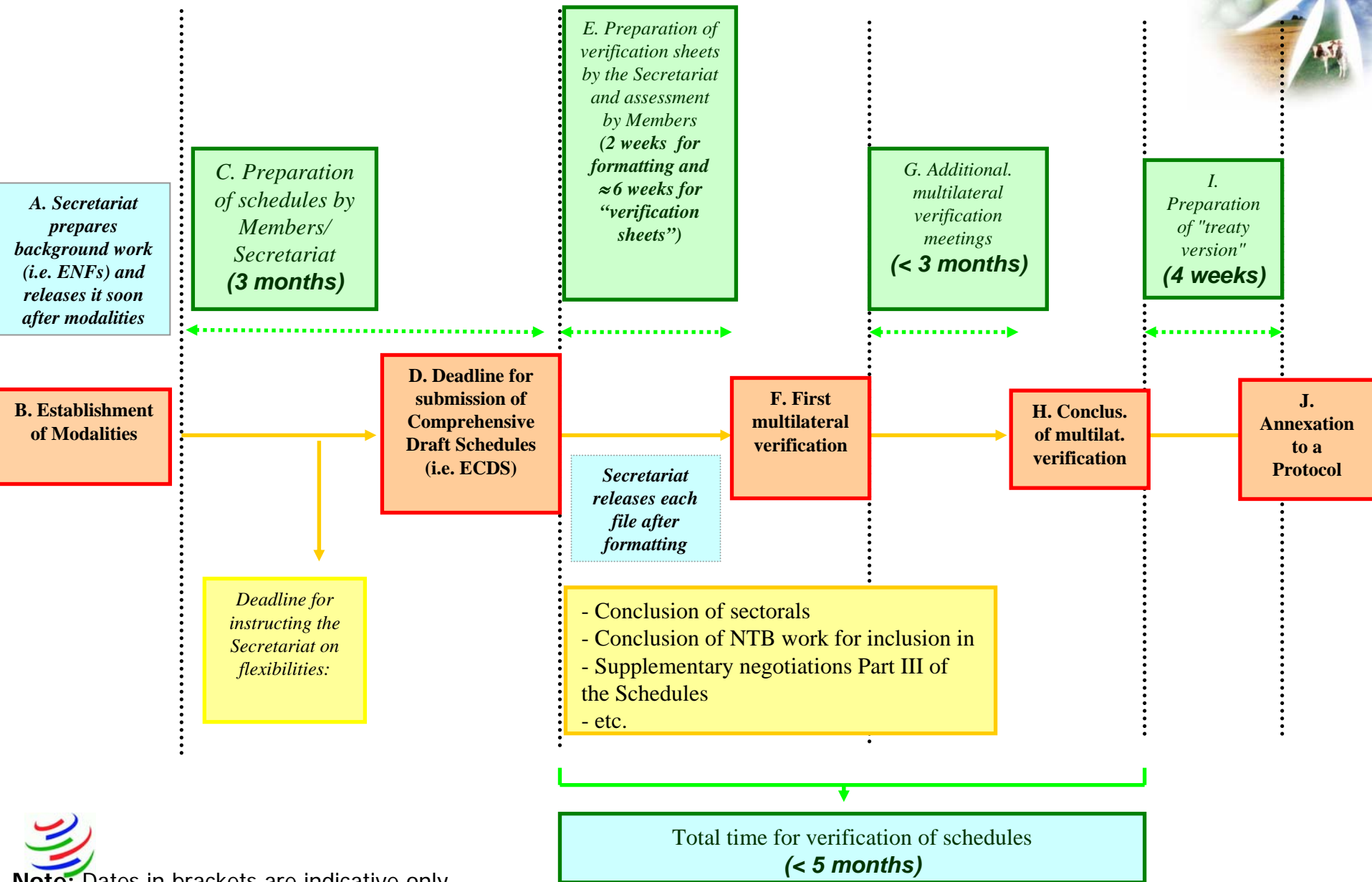


- THE ECDS maybe submitted in any of the official WTO languages
  - Data should be in spreadsheet or database format, preferably MS Excel or MS Access
- ECDS will then be open to all WTO Members for multilateral verification
- Once verification is completed, the Secretariat will prepare one paper copy of each approved ECDS on special treaty paper
- Developing and least-developed country Members may request the assistance of the Secretariat in preparing their ECDS
- Refer to JOB(06)/99/Rev.1

# Step 1: Prep. of schedules

# Step 2: Multilateral Verification

# Step 3



**Note:** Dates in brackets are indicative only.

# Concessions on Trade in Goods



- Doha Schedules will contain the following sections:
  - **Part I, Section I.A – Agricultural Tariffs**
  - **Part I, Section I.B – Agricultural Tariff Quotas**
  - **Part I, Section II – Non-Agricultural Tariffs**
  - **Part II – Preferential Tariffs**
  - **Part III – Non-Tariff Measures**
  - **Part IV – Agricultural Commitments Limiting Subsidisation**

# Part I, Section I.A – Ag Tariffs



- Application of the general tariff reduction formula to existing bound tariffs (called the base duty rate)
  - except for LDCs who are not required to undertake reduction commitments
  
- Application of specific provisions to further increase or decrease the tariff reductions made through the general formula
  - Tariff escalation
  - Tropical products
  - Preference erosion
  - Cotton

# Part I, Section I.A – Ag Tariffs



- Application of tariff reduction flexibilities
  - Sensitive products
  - Special products
  - Small, vulnerable economies
  - Recently acceded Members
- This resulting tariff will be the new final bound tariff duty to be phased-in over the duration of the implementation period
- Other elements to be considered:
  - Special safeguard mechanism – developing country Members to decide what products (if not for all products) and these may need to be specified in the schedule
  - Tariff simplification – Members may need to modify some forms of tariff duties which would be reflected in the schedule



# Part I, Section I.B - Ag Tariff Quotas



- Only relevant to sensitive products
  - but, if currently have tariff quotas, these need to be reflected in the new schedule
- Specific information to include:
  - the tariff lines included in the tariff quota
  - the in-quota duty
  - The quota volume commitment – base and final bound level (i.e. by how much is the tariff quota expanded)
- Members will likely be required to submit supporting data for the verification process – would not be included in the schedule

# Part IV – Domestic Support



- Sets out the limits for which Members may provide support to producers under:
  - the Amber Box (AMS);
  - The Blue Box; and
  - the total limit on overall trade-distorting domestic support
- Also likely to set out any product-specific limits under each of the Amber and Blue Boxes (if agreed)
- It is likely that Members will be required to submit supporting data for the verification process

# Part IV – Export Subsidies



- Sets out the limits that Members with the right to use export subsidies may provide such support
- Set out, by product, on basis of:
  - volume commitments; and
  - value commitments
- If do not have the right to use export subsidies, section left blank