WTO/ESCAP Second ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Research, 17-21 April 2006

Developing Countries in the Trading System
Trade, Development and the WTO

- Why accept international constraints on national policies?
  - Terms of trade
  - Advantages of reciprocity
  - Lower transactions costs
  - More symmetric information
  - Predictability, security of access
  - Rule of law
  - Discipline at home
A brief history:

- Phase 1 (up to 1973)
- Phase 2 (the Tokyo Round, 1973-79)
- Phase 3 (1980 to 1995)
- Phase 4 (post-1995)
Components of Special and Differential Treatment

- Market access for exports
- Increased flexibility to restrict imports
- Additional freedom to subsidize exports
- Postponing application of rules
- Technical assistance and capacity building
S&D: Where do we go next?

- Current impasses
- Can we distinguish between core obligations and others?
- Resource-intensity and development-relevance of some rules
- Phase-in?
- Opt-in, opt-out?
- Soft law and consultation processes?
- How to address graduation
S&D: Current Negotiations

- Category I and Category II proposals
- Implementation proposals
- Horizontal issues, monitoring mechanism
- LDC decisions
  - Waivers
  - Duty-free quota-free market access, rules of origin
  - TRIMS
  - Technical assistance
  - Consistent conditionality