

- The concept of plurilateral agreements could date back to decades.
 - ✓ The Code on Subsidies in Tokyo Round
 - ✓ The Plurilateral Agreements as annexes to GATT
 - ✓ The Agreement on Government Procurements
 - ✓ The Agreement on Information Technology Products
- Nature of the plurilateral agreements
 - ✓ Non-MFN basis: benefits limited to the Parties, “quasi-FTAs”, such as GPA
 - ✓ MFN basis: benefits extends to the non-Parties, “voluntary liberalization”, such as ITA
- Reasons for pursuing plurilateral agreements
 - ✓ Long stalemate of multilateral trade talks
 - ✓ Like-minded groups liberalize for the sake of their mutual interests to create incentive for multilateral agreement

- Relations between Plurilateral and Multilateral Agreements

- ✓ Generally speaking: NOT AGAINST EACH OTHER

- *The Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures* in the Uruguay Round V.S. *Code on Subsidies* in Tokyo Round
- *The Agreement on Government Procurement* in the Uruguay Round V.S. *Code on Government Procurement* in Tokyo Round

- ✓ Needs to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis

- Whether to launch within the framework of WTO
- Whether adequate transparency is provided
- Whether subject to the WTO rules including DSB
- Possibility for latecomer to join
- Possibility to “be multilateralized”

- Debates between Pluri- and Multi- Agreements in the current context
- some Members took Services as the initiative to negotiate “plurilateral” (?) agreement
 - ✓ View of the AGAINST: divert Members’ attention, ignorance of development dimensions, discriminate against the developing countries, break the DDA mandate and ignore the negotiations results
 - ✓ View of the FOR: create momentum for revitalizing DDA, beneficial to developing countries, eg. The Warwick Commission Report on the Future of the WTO

- My view
 - ✓ What kind of “plurilateral” are we talking about? FTA-like or “plurilateral as plurilateral”? GPA-like or ITA-like?
 - ✓ Whatever, FTA or plurilateral, not alternative for DDA
 - ✓ To revitalize or to rehypnotize the DDA?
- Implication for developing countries
 - ✓ Less bargaining chips
 - ✓ Hard to form broad interests groups
 - ✓ Less chance to balance among different topics
 - ✓ Inability to push the topics to their own interests