WTO and the Doha Round-
An overview

A presentation by

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Outline of the presentation

- Genesis of the Doha Round

- Structure of the Doha Round

- Negotiations since 2001

- The Bali Ministerial Conference (2013)

- Current Scenario

The Genesis of the DDA

- 1994- Conclusion of the Uruguay Round- Considered to be the last comprehensive multilateral Round.
- US wanted more market access in NAMA and Services after 1995, though not keen to start another comprehensive Round

The Genesis of DDA (contd.)

- 1996- Singapore Ministerial- EU spearheaded demand for 4 Singapore Issues (Trade Facilitation, Transparency in Government Procurement, Investment and Competition) ; Labour and Environment also discussed

- 1999- Seattle Ministerial- WTO being considered a hand maiden of big business, protests staged outside venue, Ministerial got disrupted-concluded without a Ministerial Declaration

Contd.

- Afterwards Developing Countries stepped up demand for closure on Uruguay Round Implementation Issues, conclusion of unfinished business in Agriculture

- 9/11 Attack used as an excuse to kick start a new Round- called a Development Round in afterthought

Distinctive features of the WTO

3 Main functions-

- Negotiations for Continuing Trade Liberalisation

- Review in the Permanent Committees of adherence by Members to their commitments

- Dispute Settlement for injury to trade

Doha Ministerial Conference (2001)

Doha Development Agenda comprises:-

– **Doha Ministerial Declaration**

– Decision on **Implementation Related Issues**

– Decision on **TRIPS & Public Health**

Doha Ministerial Declaration- a false dawn?

- EU main driver- US persuaded to join in later. Developed Countries demand to balance Agriculture with NAMA and Services Market Access. Development and Implementation Issues added at the insistence of developing countries

- Rules, Anti Dumping, Fisheries Subsidies added