**WTO Dispute Settlement Process**

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60 days  
by 2nd DSB meeting  
0-20 days  
20 days*  
*+10 if Director-General asked to compose the panel  
6 months from panel’s composition,  
3 months if urgent  
up to 9 months from panel’s establishment  
60 days for panel report unless appealed...  
'REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME': determined by: Member proposes, DSB agrees, or parties in dispute agree, or arbitrator  
30 days after ‘reasonable period’ expires  

**Time**

**Main steps**

- Consultations (Art. 4)
- Panel established by Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) (Art. 6)
- Terms of reference (Art. 7)
- Composition (Art. 8)
- Panel examination
  - Normally 2 meetings with parties (Art. 12)
  - 1 meeting with third parties (Art. 10)
- Interim review stage
  - Descriptive part of report sent to parties for comment (Art. 15.1)
  - Interim report sent to parties for comment (Art. 15.2)
- Panel report issued to parties (Art. 12.8; Appendix 3 para. 12(i))
- Panel report issued to DSB (Art. 12.9; Appendix 3 para. 12(k))
- DSB adopts panel/appellate report(s) including any changes to panel report made by appellate report (Art. 16.1, 16.4 and 17.14)
- Implementation report by losing party of proposed implementation within ‘reasonable period of time’ (Art. 21.3)
- In cases of non-implementation parties negotiate compensation pending full implementation (Art. 22.2)
- Retaliation
  - If no agreement on compensation, DSB authorizes retaliation pending full implementation (Art. 22)
  - Cross-retaliation
    - same sector, other sectors, other agreements (Art. 22.3)

**Interested party intervention**

- Expert review group (Art. 13, Appendix 4)
- Review meeting with panel upon request (Art. 15.2)
- Appellate review (Art. 16.4 and 17)
- Dispute over implementation
  - Proceedings possible, including referral to initial panel on implementation (Art. 21.5)

**TOTAL FOR REPORT ADOPTION**

Usually up to 9 months (no appeal), or 12 months (with appeal) from establishment of panel to adoption of report (Art. 20)

**During all stages**

- good offices, conciliation, or mediation (Art. 5)

**Experts**

- Expert review group (Art. 13, Appendix 4)
- Appellate review (Art. 16.4 and 17)
- Dispute over implementation
  - Proceedings possible, including referral to initial panel on implementation (Art. 21.5)

**Appellate review**

- Dispute over implementation
  - Proceedings possible, including referral to initial panel on implementation (Art. 21.5)

**Dispute over implementation**

- Possibility of arbitration on level of suspension procedures and principles of retaliation (Art. 22.6 and 22.7)

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