



SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE COMUNICACIÓN SOCIAL

PressReleaseNo. 100
April 12th, 2013

HERMINIO BLANCO'S CANDIDACY FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WTO MOVES FORWARD

- **After 94 days of campaigning he's held meetings with representatives from closeto one hundred countries**
- **Dr.Herminio Blanco's candidacy for Director General of the WTO has full backing from Mexico's Government, who will continue to vigorously promote said endeavour**

Dr.Herminio Blanco has been chosen to contend in the next round of the selection process for Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The selection committee, based in Geneva, Switzerland and headed by the President of the WTO's General Council presented the results of the first stage of consultations which involved the 159 member countries of the Organization.

During the announcement it was confirmed that the candidate from Mexico, Herminio Blanco Mendoza, as well as those from Indonesia, Mar ElkaPangestu; New Zealand, Tim Groser; Republic of Korea, Taeho Bark and Brazil, Roberto Carvalho de Azevêdo will take part in the second stage of the selection process for Director General of the WTO.

The President of the WTO's Council thanked the four remaining candidates that will no longer contend during the second stage: Alan John KwadwoKyerematen (Ghana); Anabel González (Costa Rica); Amina C. Mohamed (Kenya) andAhmad ThouganHindawi (Jordan). Thus, the total number of candidates was reduced from nine to five.

The results from the first stage are proof that Dr.Herminio Blanco's candidacy for Director General of the WTO has garnered support from an important number of the Organization's member countries.

"A much more competitive stage will now begin, during which member countries will have a smaller range from which to express their preferences regarding candidacies.I will continue to promote my vision of the WTO's future as well as my work project so as to uphold the WTO's relevance as well as its capacity to help less developed countries", hestated.

As part of his candidacy's promotional tour, Dr. Herminio Blanco has held meetings with high-ranking government officials from close to one hundred countries, including Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers and diplomatic representatives spanning four continents. Additionally, Dr. Blanco has accepted close to 90 interview requests with media outlets from across the globe, in 13 languages.

The selection process will come to a close with a meeting of the WTO's General Council, which will take place no later than the 31st of May. During said meeting, the decision to name a new Director General will be adopted, which will be preceded by prior consensus.

Three candidates are expected to decline after the second stage, which will most likely conclude before the end of April. However, it is also possible that only two candidates are asked to decline after the second stage of the selection process, which would lead to a fourth round, depending on the member countries' preferences.

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