

**RIETI-JETRO Symposium**  
**Global Governance in Trade and Investment Regime**  
**- For Protecting Free Trade -**  
**Handout**

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# **The Doha Round and WTO Reform**

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# Basic Problems 1

1. “Slowness” and “Narrowness” of the Doha Round

2. Weak decision-making system

Consensus

Single Undertaking

+ Many upcoming issues

→ The dispute settlement system of the WTO cannot be sustainable without appropriate legislative functions.

## Basic Problems 2

### 3. Challenge from FTAs

FTAs have become the focal point of liberalization and rulemaking.

→ Development of polarization

Concerns on the emergence of “Spaghetti Bowls” of “rules”

### 4. Inability to deal with emerging needs and those for the industries and global supply chains.

→ Industries have lost interest in the Doha Round / WTO.

# Directions For Reform 1

1. Meeting emerging needs
  - Further collaborations with the Industries
2. Meeting the demand for “variable geometry”
  - Improving procedures for plurilateral agreements
  - Making use of issue-based plurilateral agreements
  - Introducing further “schedule of concessions” as in GATS
3. Dealing with the needs of developing members
4. Reforming the decision-making mechanism

## Directions For Reform 2

5. Realizing tangible results quickly to restore confidence in the WTO
6. Multilateralization of FTAs/RTAs + Regionalization of WTO rules
7. Fight against protectionism

..... "Hold on, WTO!"