

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/5

10 October 1973

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussion at Second Meeting held on 28 September 1973
Prepared by the Secretariat

1. In opening the second meeting of the Committee of Participating Countries established under the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries, the Acting Chairman, Mr. M.G. Mathur, recalled the decision taken at the previous meeting of the Committee (CPC/1, paragraph 3) regarding the selection of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Committee agreed to use the French alphabetical order of countries for nominating the country whose representative would become Chairman for the ensuing six months. On this basis, the representative of Brazil, Mr. L.A. Pereira Souto Maior, became Chairman of the Committee. The position of Vice-Chairman was left for further discussion.

2. The proposed agenda of the meeting contained in document CPC/W/2 was adopted.

Procedure for rectifications of a purely formal character to the schedules of concessions

3. The Committee considered the draft procedure for rectifications of a purely formal character to the schedules of concessions embodied in the Protocol and circulated in document CPC/W/3. The Committee adopted the draft Decision and decided that the secretariat should distribute the text of the procedure as adopted (issued as CPC/4).

Certification of Origin

4. The Committee was notified that the necessary information relating to the procedures for certification of origin employed by India¹, Israel², Pakistan³, Spain⁴, and Yugoslavia⁵ had been circulated in a series of documents under the symbol INT(73)11 and its addenda. Details so far received from Brazil had been circulated as Addendum 4 to INT(73)11. Information received from the Republic of Korea and

¹Addendum 8

²Addendum 6

³Addenda 3 and 5

⁴Addendum 1

⁵Addendum 2

further details from Tunisia will be circulated shortly. Information had also been received from Mexico. The representatives of Turkey and the Arab Republic of Egypt indicated that the full details concerning certification procedures used by their countries would be supplied soon. The representative of Brazil informed the Committee that the additional information relating to certification employed by his country would be made available in the near future.

Ratification of Protocol

5. The Committee noted that since its last meeting, the Protocol had been ratified by the Arab Republic of Egypt on 16 July 1973. The representatives of Greece and Mexico indicated that ratification procedures had already been initiated in their countries and that it was expected they would be completed before the end of the year. The Committee considered it important that those countries not yet having completed ratification procedures should endeavour to do so at an early date in order to contribute to the successful operation of the arrangement. The Committee agreed that the secretariat should contact these countries drawing their attention to the importance placed by the Committee on ratification by all countries concerned.

Measures for encouraging accession of other developing countries

6. Consideration was given to the possible enlargement of the arrangements covered by the Protocol through the adherence of other developing countries including the least developed among them and the expansion of the product coverage. It was noted that in several fora many developing countries ~~had re-emphasized~~ their interest in expanding mutual trade relations. It was also suggested that the presence of negotiators from developing countries in connexion with the multilateral trade negotiations might provide a favourable circumstance for the further broadening of the arrangements embodied in the Protocol. The Committee decided that representatives from developing countries who had not participated in the initial round of negotiations or signed the Protocol should be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee at an early date for the purpose of exchanging views on measures which might be taken to encourage their accession to these arrangements. It was further suggested that in the light of these discussions the secretariat might be asked to study any obstacles to accepting the Protocol which might be identified so that possible solutions might be considered.

Other matters

7. The Committee noted that the delegation of Greece would deposit the rectified version of the Greek Schedule of Concessions contained in Annex 2 to document INT(73)34 when depositing the Greek instrument of ratification.

8. The Committee also took note that under the terms of the waiver by the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 26 November 1971¹ the participating countries were required to submit an annual report. The Committee suggested that participating countries take steps to supply the information required for consideration at the meeting of the Committee which will take place during the second calendar quarter of 1974. Such information would cover trade under the Protocol since it entered into force on 11 February 1973.

Next meeting

9. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed by the Chairman in accordance with the rules of procedure after consultation with delegations.

¹BISD Eighteenth Supplement, pages 26-28