

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EIGHTEEN<sup>1</sup>

The task of the Group is to facilitate the carrying out, by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, of their responsibilities, particularly with respect to:

- (a) following international trade developments with a view to the pursuit and maintenance of trade policies consistent with the objectives and principles of the General Agreement;
- (b) the forestalling, whenever possible, of sudden disturbances that could represent a threat to the multilateral trading system and to international trade relations generally; and action to deal with such disturbances if they in fact occur;
- (c) the international adjustment process and the co-ordination, in this context, between the GATT and the IMF.

In the pursuit of its task, the Group shall take into account the special characteristics and requirements of the economies of the developing countries and their problems.

The Group shall not impinge upon the competence or authority of the CONTRACTING PARTIES or of the Council and shall not assume, or detract from, any of the decision-making responsibilities of these two bodies or of the permanent GATT Committees. Neither shall it interfere with the activities and competence of the Trade Negotiations Committee.

The Group's membership shall be balanced and broadly representative due regard being had to rotation of membership as appropriate.

Initially the composition of the Group shall be as follows:

Chairman: To be designated by members of the Group.

### Membership:

Argentina	India	Peru
Australia	Japan	Poland
Brazil	Malaysia	Spain
Canada	Nigeria	Switzerland
Egypt	Nordic country	United States
European Communities and their member States	Pakistan	Zaire

The attendance of alternates shall be provided for.

<sup>1</sup> Established by Decision of the Council of 11 July 1975.

In developing its procedures, the Group shall ensure that, when a matter of particular importance to any contracting party is under discussion, that contracting party shall have the opportunity fully to present its views to the Group.

The Group may invite observers to attend during the discussion of an item on the agenda of a meeting.

The Group shall meet periodically as necessary.

The Group shall report periodically to the Council. It shall submit once a year a comprehensive account of its activities.

The Group is established provisionally for a period of one year, its tasks, composition and terms of reference being subject to review by the Council at the end of that year.