

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Preferential Arrangements  
Among Developing Countries  
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Thirty-Second Meeting  
held on 22 July 1982

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries held its thirty-second meeting on 22 July 1982 under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. Paunescu (Romania) and Mr. O. Ozuye (Turkey).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/91/Rev.1 was adopted with the inclusion of the following items under other business: Participation in CPC meetings and Ministerial Meeting.

Rotation of officers

3. At the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided that exceptionally this agenda item would be taken up before other questions. The Chairman thanked delegations for their assistance and spirit of co-operation in carrying out the activities of the Committee. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee (CPC/47), the representative of Turkey, Mr. O. Ozuye, assumed the Chairmanship of the Committee and the representative of Uruguay the Vice-Chairmanship, for the forthcoming period.

Accession of Argentina

4. The Committee reviewed developments since the previous meeting relating to the application of Argentina for accession to the Protocol.

5. In this connexion, the representative of Argentina stated that since the last meeting of the Committee the Argentine authorities had been examining the request lists submitted by participating countries and preparing a new list of offers. The new offer list of Argentina would be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible.

6. A number of members welcomed the information provided by the delegation of Argentina on developments since the previous meeting of the Committee and indicated that their authorities wished to conclude the negotiations for Argentina's accession to the Protocol on a mutually satisfactory basis without undue delay.

7. The Committee took note of the current situation with respect to Argentina's application for accession to the Protocol and urged interested participating countries to make every effort to bring the negotiations to a mutually satisfactory conclusion at an early date.

#### Expansion of trade among developing countries

8. It was recalled that in his summing-up at the last meeting (CPC/61, paragraph 10), the Chairman had welcomed the interest shown in carrying out an exchange of views on the possibilities under the Protocol for the further expansion of trade among developing countries. The Committee had taken note of the observations and suggestions which had been made in this respect, including the willingness of some members to enter into informal consultations on how a concrete effort could be made to this effect. The Committee had agreed to retain this item on its agenda for future meetings. The Chairman noted that a summary of aggregate trade among reporting participating countries of items covered by the schedules of concessions during the period 1975-1980 had been circulated in CPC/W/90. In 1979-1980, the value of trade in scheduled items among reporting participating countries as a whole had increased by more than 30 per cent. However, it was apparent that imports of scheduled items were not equally significant for all participating countries.

9. Members of the Committee who spoke on this agenda item reiterated their support for increasing trade co-operation in the framework of the Protocol. Under current economic conditions, it was essential to make full use of the opportunities for the expansion of trade among developing countries offered by the Protocol. Some members suggested that the current schedules of concessions of participating countries should be reviewed and updated with a view to enlarging both the product coverage and the scope of the concessions. The inclusion in the schedules of concessions of relevant non-tariff measures might also be considered. In addition, steps might be taken to facilitate participation in the Protocol by other developing countries. Exercises concerning trade co-operation among developing countries which might be held in other fora should be seen as complementary and should in no way deter participating countries' efforts aimed at reviewing and improving the schedules of concessions under the Protocol. Some of these members supported the intensification of consultations and the establishment of a time-frame to this effect.

10. The Chairman welcomed the overall support for the review and improvement of the scope and coverage of the schedules of concessions under the Protocol. The Committee took note of the comments and observations made by members. The Committee authorized the Chairman to carry out consultations with participating countries on possible steps which might be taken to review and update the current schedules of concessions including the establishment of a possible time-table to this effect and the convening of a special meeting of the Committee, if necessary. The Committee agreed to retain this item on its agenda for future meetings.

### Annual report

11. The Chairman recalled that a secretariat note on reporting procedures for the Annual Report had been circulated as CPC/W/92. He drew attention to paragraph 5 of the note inviting delegations to provide the requested data not later than 10 September 1982 so as to allow sufficient time for the secretariat to prepare a draft of the report for consideration and finalization by the Committee at its end-of-September meeting. The document noted that the report would be taken up by the Committee on Trade and Development at its end-of-year session in connexion with the review of the Enabling Clause. The Committee agreed to invite all participating countries to provide the statistical data required for the Annual Report at the earliest possible date and in any case not later than 10 September 1982.

### Participation in CPC meetings

12. One member referred to the possibility of bringing to the attention of other developing countries the opportunities offered by the Protocol. He suggested that non-member developing countries might be invited to follow the activities of the Committee in an observer capacity. The Chairman noted that interested developing countries could at any time submit a request to the Committee to this effect. Furthermore, detailed information concerning the activities of the Committee and trade under the Protocol was circulated in the Annual Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. This Report was examined at the end-of-year session of the Committee on Trade and Development in connexion with the review of the implementation of the Enabling Clause.

13. The Committee took note of this suggestion and will revert to this question at its next meeting.

### Ministerial Meeting

14. One member suggested that the Ministerial Meeting might be a good occasion to bring to the attention of Ministers from participating countries the arrangements under the Protocol.

15. The Committee took note of this suggestion and will revert to this question at its next meeting.

### Next meeting

16. The Chairman indicated that the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with members of the Committee and the secretariat, in accordance with usual practice.