

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
CPC/63
22 October 1982
Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Thirty-Third Meeting
held on 14 October 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-third meeting on 14 October 1982 under the Chairmanship of Mr. O. Ozuye (Turkey).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/93 was adopted.

Accession of Argentina

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

4. In this connexion, the representative of Argentina stated that since the last meeting of the Committee the Argentine authorities had continued the process of preparing a new list of offers. The new offer list of Argentina would be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible.

5. 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

6. The Chairman referred to paragraphs 8-10 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/62) and recalled that the Committee had authorized him 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. It was understood that following consultations which had been taking place, participating countries had agreed as follows:

"Having regard to the relevant provisions of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries, the Committee of Participating Countries decides to carry out a review of the schedules of concessions of participating countries with a view to facilitating

action aimed at updating and improving the scope and coverage of the concessions on the basis of the considerations and principles embodied in the Preamble to the Protocol. To this effect, the Committee requests the secretariat to prepare necessary factual material that would serve as a basis for action directed at updating and improving the general level of mutually beneficial concessions under the Protocol. In this context, the Committee agreed to meet in January 1983 to examine the factual material prepared by the secretariat and to exchange information and proposals for updating and improving the scope and coverage of the schedules of participating countries."

7. The Committee adopted the text reproduced in paragraph 6 above. The Committee also agreed to keep this item on its agenda for future meetings.

Annual Report

8. The Chairman recalled that a draft Ninth Annual Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES prepared by the secretariat had been circulated as CPC/W/94 and Add.1-2. He drew attention to paragraph 8 of the draft which reproduced the text adopted under the preceding agenda item. He added that, unfortunately only a few participating countries had so far provided the necessary statistical data. Under the circumstances submission of the report to the Committee on Trade and Development would give an incomplete picture of trade exchanges among participating countries. Consequently, delegations might make an extra effort to get the required data which would then be collated by the secretariat in accordance with usual procedures.

9. The Committee adopted the report circulated as CPC/W/94 and Addenda and urged participating countries to provide the statistical data required for the Annual Report at the earliest possible date and in any case prior to the next meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development.

Derestriction of documents

10. The Chairman said that in accordance with the procedures adopted on 25 July 1978, a list of documents which would appear to be presently eligible for derestriction had been circulated as CPC/W/95. The Committee agreed to derestrict the documents listed in CPC/W/95.

Participation in CPC meetings

11. At the last meeting, the Committee had taken note of the suggestion that non-member developing countries might be invited to follow the activities of the Committee in an observer capacity and decided to revert to this question at its next meeting (CPC/62 paragraphs 12-13). The Committee agreed to revert to this item at a later meeting.

Ministerial Meeting

12. The Chairman recalled that at the last meeting, the Committee had taken note of the suggestion that the Ministerial Meeting might be a good occasion to bring to the attention of Ministers from participating countries the

arrangements under the Protocol and decided to revert to this question at its next meeting (CPC/62 paragraphs 14-15). He said that this matter had been raised in the course of the recent consultations and it would appear that even though delegations thought contacts among Protocol Ministers might be useful, at this time it was not considered necessary to make arrangements for such purpose. The Committee took note of the views expressed.

Next meeting

13. The Chairman indicated that the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed in consultation with delegations and the secretariat in accordance with usual practice.