

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/76

17 October 1984

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Preferential Arrangements  
Among Developing Countries  
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Thirty-Ninth Meeting  
held on 18 September 1984

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-ninth meeting on 18 September 1984 under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. Rahman (Bangladesh).
2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/106 was adopted.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

3. The Chairman referred to paragraphs 3-5 of the Summary of Discussions of the last meeting (CPC/75) and recalled that the Committee had taken note of the comments made by members regarding the review of the schedules of concessions of participating countries and agreed to revert to this matter at the present meeting. The Chairman also recalled that the agreed procedures for the review of the schedules of concessions were circulated in CPC/69. It was understood that some members had been proceeding with this exercise in accordance with the agreed procedures. The Committee agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

Annual Report

4. The Chairman said that the draft Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Committee on Trade and Development had been circulated in CPC/W/105 and Addenda. Up to now only six participating countries had provided the necessary statistical data and it would be desirable that other participating countries submit the necessary data as soon as possible. Several members stated that the necessary statistical data was in the process of preparation in capitals and would be submitted to the secretariat at an early date. One member requested that aggregate figures for trade exchanges on concessional items among participating countries be circulated by the secretariat in due course. This global trade data might be supplemented by an analytical paper outlining the factors that might have influenced the increase or decrease of trade exchanges among participating countries over the recent period. Some members agreed that the kind of information suggested would provide all members with useful information on the operation of the Protocol. In this respect some members noted that the secretariat would only be able to provide the documentation requested once members had made available the necessary statistical data. In most cases this data had to be compiled on an ad hoc basis as trade statistics normally did not provide information at the tariff line level corresponding to concessional items. The representative of the secretariat recalled that document CPC/W/90 had provided a summary of aggregate trade

among participating countries of items covered by the schedules of concessions during the period 1976-1980. Moreover, in connection with the review of the schedules of concessions, in document CPC/S/4, the secretariat had provided up to date information on the schedules of concessions of participating countries, current m.f.n. rates and m.f.n. rates at the time the Protocol had been negotiated, other relevant taxes and charges, tariff concessions and initial negotiating rights, as well as imports of concessional items in 1973 (or the earliest period for which data was available) and in the period 1979-1981 (or the latest period for which data was available). The initial section of this document provided some preliminary and factual comments on the various elements which had affected trade exchanges among participating countries during the period under review. In the light of up to date information provided by members, the secretariat would attempt to update the aggregate trade tabulation and complement to the extent possible the analytical comments contained in the earlier secretariat note. In supporting the proposal some members stressed that the information requested should be considered by the Committee of Participating Countries and would not be incorporated in the draft Annual Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES currently under examination.

5. Following the consideration of the draft Report, the Committee adopted the Annual Report circulated in CPC/W/105 and Addenda and invited those participating countries that had not yet done so to submit to the secretariat the statistical data and information required for the Annual Report as soon as possible. The Committee agreed to revert to the question of trade exchanges on concessional items among participating countries at its next meeting having regard to relevant secretariat documentation and updated statistical data that members would be expected to provide at an early date.

#### Rules of Procedure

6. The Chairman referred to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee (CPC/47) and said that at the last meeting the Committee had agreed to revert at this meeting to the question of possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure concerning the time period for the service of officers of the Committee (CPC/75 paragraphs 10 and 11). It was understood that to give continuity to the work of the Committee some members had suggested the extension of the period of office of the Chairman from 6 months to 12 months. Several members supported this suggestion. In addition one member suggested the substitution of the alphabetical rotation system of selection of the Chairman which was not specified in the Rules of Procedure by some other system of rotation. One member stated that the current system of rotation of officers every 6 months had not created any problems and opposed any changes in paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. Another member said that at this stage his delegation was not yet ready to adopt a decision on this matter. Some members said that the alphabetical rotation system had worked well and thus should not be modified. Other members stated that provided the principle of rotation of officers be maintained they would be willing to consider some other basis for rotation acceptable to the Committee.

7. In the light of comments and proposals by delegations, the Committee agreed to revert to the question of amending paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure at its next meeting.

Derestriction of Documents

8. The Chairman referred to document CPC/W/107 which on the basis of the guidelines adopted by the Committee listed CPC/ and CPC/W/ documents which appeared to be eligible for derestriction. This list had been submitted for consideration by the Committee. As there were no objections to the proposal, the Committee agreed to derestrict the documents mentioned in CPC/W/107.

Next meeting

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