

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## Preferential Arrangements Among Developing Countries Negotiated in GATT

### COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Meeting to be held on 11 March 1980

The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries will hold its twenty-sixth meeting on Tuesday, 11 March 1980, at 10.30 a.m. in the Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne, Geneva. The meeting will also be open to delegations of countries having signed but not yet ratified the Protocol.

The following items have been proposed for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting.

#### 1. Communication from Argentina (CPC/52)

By a communication dated 18 February 1980, the Government of Argentina has applied for accession to the Protocol. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of the Protocol, the Committee of Participating Countries is expected to take the necessary steps to facilitate the accession of the applicant country and make arrangements for negotiations leading to an exchange of concessions between that country and participating countries. In connexion with earlier applications for accession, the Committee's practice has been to invite the applicant country to make a statement to the Committee and participate in the discussion on this agenda item. The Committee has also on each occasion requested the circulation of information concerning the trade régime of the applicant country.

#### 2. Extension of the Protocol of Accession of Bangladesh

Paragraph 3 of the Protocol of Accession of Bangladesh provides that the Protocol shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of its entry into force. Prior to the expiration of this period, Bangladesh may apply for an extension of the duration of the Protocol of Accession or may enter into negotiations with participating countries for an exchange of concessions. As indicated in paragraph 3 of CPC/38, the Protocol of Accession of Bangladesh entered into force on 29 March 1977. Consequently, the three-year period will expire on 28 March 1980. The Committee might wish to take up this question in the light of any suggestions or proposals made by the representative of Bangladesh.

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3. Expansion of Trade Among Developing Countries

At its last meeting, the Committee took note of the ad hoc consultations that had been held on 25/26 October 1979 aimed at exploring how progress might be made with respect to the expansion of trade among developing countries on a global basis through a new round of trade negotiations. The Note on Proceedings has since been circulated as LDC/1. A progress report on the continuing technical work being undertaken by the secretariat will be issued prior to the meeting. The Committee might wish to review developments since its last meeting in connexion with the expansion of trade among developing countries on a global basis.

4. Withdrawal by Greece (L/4923)

The Committee might wish to take note of the communication.

5. Rotation of officers (CPC/47)

6. Other business