

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/79
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Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements Among Developing Countries Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Reporting Procedures

Note by the Secretariat

1. To facilitate the preparation of the Seventh Annual Report on the operation of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries to the Committee on Trade and Development and to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the main points relevant to reporting procedures are summarized in the following paragraphs.
2. It might be noted that the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Participation of Developing Countries (L/4903) adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session in November 1979 permits, inter alia, "regional or global arrangements entered into amongst less-developed contracting parties for the mutual reduction or elimination of tariffs and, in accordance with criteria or conditions which may be prescribed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, for the mutual reduction or elimination of non-tariff measures..." notwithstanding the provisions of Article I of the General Agreement. There is thus a standing legal basis for such arrangements resulting from the Tokyo Round.² As the Committee on Trade and Development has been given primary responsibility for supervision of the implementation of the above Decision, also known as the Enabling Clause, the Committee discussed at its March meeting procedural arrangements for reviewing activities covered by the Decision. The Committee took note that reviews of the operation of the Enabling Clause could be co-ordinated with its end of year reviews of the implementation of Part IV and that information for the purpose of such reviews should be circulated in good time.
3. As the Protocol could be considered as one component of the material to be provided for the end of year reviews of the Enabling Clause, it is suggested that the type of information provided in the past by the Committee of Participating Countries should be continued with such modifications to the descriptive part of the report as might be required to take into account the situation arising from the Decision on the Enabling Clause. In this respect, paragraph 4 of the Enabling Clause provides inter alia, for notification of the introduction, modification, or withdrawal of any measure provided for in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Decision.

¹The Sixth Annual Report was circulated as L/4855 and Addenda.

²The implementation of the Protocol was originally covered by a Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES dated 26 November 1971 (BISD, Eighteenth Supplement, pages 26-28).

4. In the light of the Enabling Clause Decision, it is suggested that the Protocol report, as in the past, might contain a brief, general description of pertinent developments together with supporting statistical data.

5. If the above approach is generally acceptable to the Committee and in order to allow sufficient time for the preparation and finalization of the report by the Committee of Participating Countries at its September 1980 meeting, participating countries should submit to the secretariat all the necessary data as early as practicable and, in any case, no later than 10 September 1980. For comparative purposes, the statistical tabulations should cover, to the extent possible, the calendar or fiscal years 1977, 1978 and 1979. For any country having acceded to the Protocol without negotiations, statistics showing the value of imports from other participating countries and from the world by main product categories for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979 should be provided.

6. Statistical details may be provided on the basis of the attached pro forma which has been used in the preparation of previous annual reports.

7. With regard to uniformity in the presentation of data for the annual report, the CPC at its April 1976 meeting, took note of the following suggestions: (a) import values should indicate whether they are c.i.f. or f.o.b. wherever possible; (b) all values should be rounded to the nearest thousand dollars; (c) world totals should include the value of imports originating from participating countries; (d) the value of imports originating from participating countries should not include imports from those countries not having completed ratification procedures. In cases where the value of imports is negligible or not available, the symbols (...) or (n.a.) respectively might be used. In addition the symbol (-) might indicate where no trade has taken place with respect to particular items.

8. The information supplied by individual participating countries might be accompanied by a short description of developments related to the application of the Protocol. For convenience, the material provided could then be collated in draft form by the secretariat. After the report has been given final shape by the Committee of Participating Countries it will be submitted to meetings of the Committee on Trade and Development, in advance of the thirty-sixth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

