

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development

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INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Statement by the Delegation of Gabon
to the Committee on Trade and Development on
19 March 1965¹

Having regard on the one hand to the provisions of the new Part IV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and on the other hand to statements made by some contracting parties, the less-developed countries have felt it appropriate to demonstrate their participation in the search for solutions to the problem of organization of markets and to that of stabilizing prices of commodities, or primary products.

The Committee which you have the honour to preside over, Mr. Chairman, is well aware that for the less-developed countries these problems are a matter of constant and major concern.

Accordingly, considering that this particular question came within the scope of the Committee on Trade and Development, the economically less-favoured countries decided to draw up a draft recommendation which they request should be included in the agenda of one of a forthcoming meeting of your Committee.

Gabon has been asked to present this request, in the name of the less-developed countries.

If, as we hope, the draft recommendation, which calls for the opening or initiation of discussions, is accepted we shall request the establishment of a special working party whose terms of reference are set forth in the above-mentioned draft recommendation.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the position of Gabon, which is one of the joint sponsors of this draft recommendation, has not varied in regard to the problems referred to in it.

¹Circulated at the request of the delegation of Gabon. See also COM.TD/W.13.

In the statement which my country's Minister of National Economy made a few days ago, he emphasized the need for the Committee on Trade and Development to study and prepare draft international arrangements designed to stabilize commodity prices at more remunerative levels.

Because of the lack of precision which he cited in certain provisions of the new Part IV, Gabon has not found it possible to sign the Protocol amending the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The delegation of Gabon hopes, Mr. Chairman, that the proposals contained in the draft recommendation presented by the developing countries will be studied in an objective manner by the working party to be appointed for that purpose, in the mutual interest of the developed countries and the less advanced ones.