

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/269

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Committee on Trade and Development
Thirty-Fifth Session
23 June 1978

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. Review of implementation of Part IV

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee on Trade and Development is required to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. A secretariat note summarizing certain developments, since the last session of the Committee, in commercial policy measures and other matters of interest in relation to Part IV is being circulated as COM.TD/W/270.

2. Notification procedures relating to the implementation of Part IV

At its last meeting, the Committee undertook an examination of notification procedures relating to the implementation of Part IV on the basis of a secretariat background note (COM.TD/W/260), which contained factual information on notification procedures followed by the Committee, the experience of the Committee with respect to such procedures and a summary of the observations and suggestions that had been made previously on this subject. The main points brought out in the discussion are contained in paragraphs 17-24 of the Committee's report (L/4597). While it was generally felt that more time was required for reflection and consultation on the various suggestions made for improvements to existing reporting procedures, there was a widely shared view that they were not being fully complied with. In this connexion it was felt that contracting parties should make a particular effort to provide in their notifications for the annual review, as full and comprehensive information as they found possible to submit. It was recognized that developing countries could also submit "reverse" notifications with the assistance of the secretariat. Although some members felt they would be better placed to consider the need for any modifications at the conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations, it was agreed that the matter should be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

3. Review of developments in international trade

The Committee undertakes a regular review of developments in international trade permitting members to offer comments and suggestions on points of particular interest to them. For the consideration of this item, a secretariat note, reviewing recent trends in the trade and payments situation of developing countries with particular reference to trade in primary commodities, is being circulated as COM.TD/W/271.

4. Trade protectionism affecting developing countries

At the last meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development, many delegations expressed their deep concern about recent protectionist developments in international trade and their relation to the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement (paragraphs 7-15, L/4597). The increasing use of import restrictions against products of export interest to developing countries was widely noted. It was believed that the Committee on Trade and Development had an important rôle to play in reviewing such problems and suggesting to the CONTRACTING PARTIES ways which would help to overcome them. To facilitate further discussion of this matter at the forthcoming meeting, the secretariat is expected to provide a background note which is being circulated as document COM.TD/W/272.

5. Developments in the multilateral trade negotiations

At the May 1975 meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that a separate agenda item should appear on the agenda of each meeting of the Committee dealing with the multilateral trade negotiations and that a background note on developments in the various areas of the negotiations should be provided by the secretariat in order that developing countries could raise points of particular interest to them. A secretariat note summarizing recent developments in the multilateral trade negotiations since the last meeting of the Committee, based on information available to the secretariat, is being issued as document COM.TD/W/273.

6. Technical assistance

The Committee reviews developments in the field of technical assistance being made available to developing countries in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations with a view to providing an opportunity to delegations to offer comments and suggestions concerning further work that might be undertaken in this area. A secretariat note describing recent technical assistance activities of the secretariat in this field is being circulated as COM.TD/W/274.

7. Expansion of trade among developing countries

The Committee follows developments in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries. At its November 1977 meeting, the Committee took note of the Fourth Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries (L/4561 and Add.1.). A secretariat note briefly describing more recent developments in this respect is being issued as COM.TD/W/275.

8. Other matters

Among other things, the Committee on Trade and Development may wish to discuss arrangements for reviewing, at a future meeting, the situation of international trade from the point of view of developing countries in the light of developments in the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations.