

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY THE SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### Note by the Secretariat

1. The Committee on Trade and Development has, at each of its recent meetings, reviewed the technical assistance being provided by the secretariat to developing countries participating in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. At its thirty-fourth session in November 1977, the Committee had before it, for this purpose, document COM.TD/W/266, describing the technical assistance activities of the secretariat at that time.
2. Since the last session of the Committee, the technical assistance activities of the secretariat have continued to involve the supply of factual information and documentation to assist developing countries in preparing requests and supplementary requests in the fields of agriculture, non-tariff measures and tariffs. Following the tabling of offers in these areas the secretariat, on request, has provided individual developing countries with information, clarification and documentation in connexion with the examination of these offers.
3. With respect to tropical products, the secretariat has continued to provide technical assistance, when requested, to individual developing countries or groups of such countries submitting or resubmitting request lists on tropical products under the agreed procedures. Through the putting together of appropriate material when requested, the secretariat has also assisted individual developing countries to examine developments on items of specific interest to them in the light of offers made in the various areas of the negotiations. In order to enable participants in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations to examine the overall situation with respect to requests submitted by developing countries in the context of tropical products, a document showing the list of requests and concessions, contributions and offers was recently updated and circulated.

4. With respect to negotiations on certain codes of conduct, the secretariat has upon request by individual countries provided clarifications with respect to provisions in the draft texts and such other information as it could give on developments in these areas of the negotiations.

5. While continuing to provide technical assistance along the lines mentioned above, the secretariat has been increasingly required to focus in recent weeks on meeting the day-to-day requirements of developing countries in providing at short notice information, clarification or documentation in connexion with bilateral or plurilateral contacts relating to various areas of the negotiations.

6. Special attention continues to be given to meeting the needs and requirements of the least developed among developing countries. Further ad hoc studies on various aspects of the MTN have been made at the request of least developed countries.

7. As in the past, the purpose of reporting on the work being carried out by the secretariat in the technical assistance field has been, inter alia, to enable delegations to suggest what additional types of technical assistance might be required in the light of past experience. In this connexion, delegations might wish to consider their further requirements in the period ahead.