

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Trade and Development

Forty-First Session

10-11 July 1980

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Having regard to the rôle of the Committee as determined by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the overall GATT Work Programme adopted in November 1979 (L/4884/Add.1, Annex VI) and subsequent discussion in the Committee itself, the following items are proposed for the forty-first session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

### 1. Implementation of Part IV and operation of the Enabling Clause

#### (a) Review of implementation of Part IV

According to its terms of reference, one of the main tasks of the Committee on Trade and Development is to review at each of its meetings the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. A secretariat note summarizing certain developments in commercial policy measures and other developments of relevance to Part IV since the annual review undertaken by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session in November 1979 is being circulated as COM.TD/W/313.

#### (b) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause

It was noted at the March 1980 meeting of the Committee, that a co-ordinated approach would be required with respect to reviews of the implementation of Part IV and of the operation of the Enabling Clause. In addition to notifications by governments relating to these two matters for review at autumn sessions of the Committee and secretariat notes on the implementation of Part IV referred to in (a) above, the secretariat is expected to provide supplementary information which would be useful for reviews of the Enabling Clause. Thus available information with respect to the operation of the Enabling Clause since the adoption of the Decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1979 is summarized as a separate section in COM.TD/W/313.

#### (c) Future information requirements

With respect to future information requirements of the Committee in relation to Part IV and the Enabling Clause, delegations might wish to discuss how this material might best be made available by the secretariat to facilitate reviews by the Committee of these two aspects of its work programme having regard to the documentation presented for the current meeting and noting that for the autumn sessions of the Committee, such information would be supplementing details provided by governments. In this regard, the Committee agreed at its last meeting

that with a view to adopting a co-ordinated approach and in order to avoid duplication of requests for information and submission of notifications by contracting parties, the secretariat would seek information under procedures relating to the implementation of Part IV and in terms of the requirements of the Enabling Clause at the same time (COM.TD/104, paragraph 48). It was suggested that the secretariat might prepare a detailed list of the points on which information should be sought with respect to the implementation of Part IV. This is being circulated as COM.TD/W/311.

## 2. Sub-Committee on Protective Measures

As indicated in GATT/AIR/1630, the initial meeting of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures is scheduled to take place on 1 and 2 July 1980. At that meeting, the Sub-Committee is expected to examine any notifications and relevant information regarding protective measures that may have been made available to it and to give such further attention to working out more detailed procedures for the Sub-Committee as may be considered necessary. The Sub-Committee's report on its first meeting will be available to the Committee on Trade and Development.

## 3. Review of developments in international trade

The Committee regularly reviews developments in international trade which have a bearing on the trade of developing countries. To facilitate consideration of this item, a secretariat note reviewing recent trends in the trade and payments situation of developing countries is being circulated as COM.TD/W/314.

## 4. Work on trade liberalization

At the last meeting of the Committee, it was generally felt that the areas of special interest to developing countries to which the Committee should initially give attention were quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, tariff escalation, tropical products and the question of advance implementation of MTN tariff concessions on products of interest to developing countries, taking into account the GSP situation (COM.TD/104, paragraph 27). The view was generally expressed that, as an initial step in the work of the Committee, an adequate data base showing the post-MTN situation regarding conditions of access for exports of developing countries in developed country markets with respect to the areas of work indicated would need to be put together. The secretariat, basing itself on the suggestions made in this connexion during the course of the Committee's discussion and in consultation with interested delegations, was requested to set about the process of providing updated documentation as background for future work on trade liberalization and report on the results of its efforts, together with any documentation produced, to the next meeting of the Committee. Accordingly, the following background documents are being circulated:

- (a) Tokyo Round results with Respect to Requests Submitted in the Tropical Products Negotiations (COM.TD/W/310 and Add.1);
- (b) Work on Trade Liberalization: Updating of Information on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures Affecting the Trade of Developing Countries (COM.TD/W/312);
- (c) Tariff Escalation (COM.TD/W/315); and
- (d) Advance Implementation of Tokyo Round MFN Tariff Concessions on Products of Interest to Developing Countries (COM.TD/W/316).

At the Committee's March 1980 session, it was agreed that the Committee would come back to the question of its work on trade liberalization at its next meeting when it would also have a discussion on modalities for such work having regard to activities taking place elsewhere in GATT.

#### 5. Structural adjustment

At its last session, the Committee considered how it should take up, as required by the GATT Work Programme, work on structural adjustment and the trade of developing countries having regard to the rôle assigned to the Consultative Group of Eighteen in respect of the general issue of structural adjustment and trade policy. A number of views were put forward on this question, which are summarized in paragraphs 32-38 of the Committee's proceedings, COM.TD/104. As suggested by the Chairman, consultations were expected to take place among interested delegations having regard to the points and proposals made in the Committee including that for the reactivation, pending agreement on any more broadly-based approach, of the Expert Group on Adjustment Assistance Measures that functioned under the Committee in the years 1965-1972 but whose work was put in abeyance in the early stages of the Tokyo Round, and the proposal for the establishment of a Committee on Structural Adjustment along the lines suggested in document COM.TD/103. It was felt that such consultations would help the Committee at its next meeting consider how best to proceed with this matter.

#### 6. Special problems of the least-developed countries

In the Committee's discussions at its last meeting on how the special problems of the least-developed countries might be dealt with, there was a large measure of support for a proposal for the establishment of a Sub-Committee on the Least-Developed Countries. Draft terms of reference for such a Sub-Committee, reproduced in the Annex to COM.TD/104, were suggested by some delegations. The Director-General was also requested by the Committee to hold consultations with interested delegations on the proposal for the establishment of a Sub-Committee, including its possible terms of reference, so as to facilitate a decision being taken at the Committee's next meeting. A report on developments in this regard will be made to the Committee.

#### 7. Other matters

Delegations may wish to raise for discussion other matters related to the work of the Committee.