

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade and Development
Forty-Second Session
11-12 November 1980

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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

1. Review of 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 functions of the Committee on Trade and Development is to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. At its forty-first session in July 1980, the Committee on Trade and Development carried out a mid-term review of the implementation of Part IV in the light of information contained in secretariat document COM.TD/W/313. Additional information provided by delegations during that session is summarized in paragraphs 7-10 of the Committee's proceedings (COM.TD/105). As background for the annual review of Part IV, recent developments in commercial policy measures, as reported by governments in response to GATT/AIR/1651 have been reproduced in document COM.TD/W/321. A secretariat note (COM.TD/W/322) provides certain additional information on points of interest in the context of Part IV.

(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, information provided by governments relevant to the Enabling Clause in response to the invitation in section B of the Attachment to GATT/AIR/1651 is also being circulated in COM.TD/W/321. In addition, secretariat note, COM.TD/W/322, includes a separate section containing certain supplementary information relevant to the Enabling Clause. It might be noted that for the first review of the Enabling Clause by the Committee in July 1980, the secretariat summarized information available to it in Section II of document COM.TD/W/313.

2. Review of developments in international trade

The Committee undertakes a regular review of developments in international trade having regard to the trade and payments position of developing countries with particular reference to developments in trade in primary commodities permitting members to offer comments and suggestions on points of particular interest. To provide a basis for discussion at the November session of the Committee, the secretariat is updating in COM.TD/W/314/Rev.1, the information circulated for the July meeting.

3. Work on trade liberalization

At the March 1980 meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development, there was a general view that the areas of special interest to developing countries, in the context of further work on trade liberalization, to which the Committee should initially give attention in the post-MTN period were tropical products, tariff escalation, the advance implementation of m.f.n. tariff concessions on products of interest to developing countries, and quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures. For consideration of these matters at its session in July 1980, the Committee had before it the following documentation provided by the secretariat:

- (a) Tokyo Round Results with respect to Requests Submitted in the Tropical Products Negotiations (COM.TD/W/310 and Add.1, as well as two annexes issued separately which provided detailed information on the post-Tokyo Round situation at the tariff line level);
- (b) Tariff Escalation (COM.TD/W/315 containing pre- and post-Tokyo Round tariff averages for categories of products used in the Tariff Study together with certain data on trade flows);
- (c) Possibilities for Advance Implementation of Tokyo Round m.f.n. Tariff Concessions on Products of Interest to Developing Countries (COM.TD/W/316 and an annex issued separately containing certain technical information);
- (d) 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).

A summary of the procedural suggestions with regard to further work contained in the above-mentioned documents will appear in COM.TD/W/319.

Preliminary comments by delegations on the secretariat documents and the Chairman's summing-up of the discussions at the July meeting of the Committee are referred to in paragraphs 27-36 of COM.TD/105.

At the November session, members of the Committee might be in a position to agree on the next steps in their work on trade liberalization having regard to the documentation listed above, the preliminary comments made by delegations at the July meeting of the Committee and the results of any informal consultations which might have taken place in the interim period.

4. Structural adjustment

At its July 1980 meeting, the Committee on Trade and Development further considered how it could take up work on structural adjustment and the trade of developing countries, having regard to the advisory rôle assigned to the Consultative Group of Eighteen in respect of the general issue of structural adjustment and trade policy in the framework of GATT. A number of views expressed on the subject as well as on institutional issues, are summarized in paragraphs 37-41 of the Committee's July proceedings COM.TD/105. At that meeting, the Chairman noted general agreement that the Consultative Group of Eighteen should be requested to intensify its work in this area and that the Committee, in the light of any inputs from CG.18, should be able to decide on the way it would pursue its continuing rôle in this area before the end of 1980. For further background, delegations might wish to refer to COM.TD/W/305, Annex 1, which summarizes past activities of the Committee on Trade and Development in the field of structural adjustment and COM.TD/103 concerning a proposal for the establishment of a Committee on Structural Adjustment. The Committee will also have available to it information on any further discussions held in the CG.18 on the subject of structural adjustment.

5. Sub-Committee on Protective Measures

The Sub-Committee's report on its second session will be available to the Committee on Trade and Development in document COM.TD/SCPM/2.

6. Sub-Committee on Trade of Least Developed Countries

The Sub-Committee on Trade of Least Developed Countries was established and terms of reference agreed at the July session of the Committee on Trade and Development (COM.TD/105, paragraphs 43-46). The Sub-Committee is expected to meet shortly after the session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

7. Technical assistance

At the November 1979 session of the Committee on Trade and Development there was general agreement that technical assistance to developing countries being provided by the secretariat would continue to be an important element in the work of GATT and that the Committee would keep under review activities in this respect (L/4876, paragraph 37). To assist the Committee in reviewing

this matter and to provide delegations with an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions on this area of GATT's activities, a secretariat note describing the technical assistance provided to developing countries in 1980 is being circulated as COM.TD/W/323.

8. Expansion of trade among developing countries

In accordance with GATT's post-MTN work programme, the Committee continues to serve as a forum for following developments in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries. In this connexion, it receives the Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries concerning the operation of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries.

9. Other matters

Delegations might wish to raise for discussion any other matters relevant to the work of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.