

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/327
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Committee on Trade and Development
Forty-third Session
24 March 1981

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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

1. Structural adjustment and trade policy

At its November 1980 meeting, the Committee on Trade and Development further discussed its continuing role in relation to work on structural adjustment and the trade of developing countries, having regard to the advisory role assigned to the Consultative Group of Eighteen in respect of the general issues of structural adjustment and trade policy in the framework of GATT. At that meeting, the Committee noted that the Council, on 10 November 1980, had established a Working Party on Structural Adjustment and Trade Policy in accordance with the recommendation of the Consultative Group of Eighteen. The Working Party was requested to elaborate specific proposals for the future work of GATT relating to structural adjustment and trade policy including the nature and objectives of such work in the light of the report of the Consultative Group of Eighteen and of the views expressed in the Committee on Trade and Development. The Working Party was invited to report to the Council by March 1981 bearing in mind the provisions of the General Agreement, including Part IV. The Council, in its consideration of the Working Party report, is expected to take account of the views expressed on the report by the Committee on Trade and Development and the Consultative Group of Eighteen.

The report of the Working Party is available to the Committee in document L/5120. A background note (L/5086) prepared by the secretariat to assist the Working Party in its activities may also be helpful to the Committee.

2. Work on trade liberalization

At its November 1980 meeting, the Committee gave further consideration to work on trade liberalization in areas identified earlier as of special interest to developing countries on the basis of the documentation provided by the secretariat for its July 1980 meeting. There was broad agreement that work on trade liberalization should proceed on a step-by-step basis, the first step being the collection of detailed data to provide a basis for the analysis and identification of issues and problems relevant to the trade interests of developing countries in the post-Tokyo Round situation. For the forthcoming meeting, the secretariat is making available the following material.

(i) Tropical products

Having regard to the indicative list of tropical products in the Annex to COM.TD/W/319, the secretariat has endeavoured to collect in COM.TD/W/328, COM.TD/W/329, COM.TD/W/330 and COM.TD/W/331, the data requested on commercial policy and trade flows etc. for coffee, cocoa, tea and bananas respectively. Details relating to other products listed are expected to be made available for later meetings of the Committee.

(ii) Tariff escalation

At its last meeting, the Committee noted that the secretariat had been requested by the Committee on Tariff Concessions to provide information on methodology which could be utilized for work on tariff escalation and that this document which is being issued as TAR/W/18 could also be made available to the Committee on Trade and Development. In connexion with this work, it was also noted that it would be helpful if delegations of interested developing countries were to identify those product areas or chains of production where they felt that their exports may be impeded as a result of the escalation of tariffs having regard to the information contained in COM.TD/W/315.

(iii) Quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures

In document COM.TD/W/326 the secretariat will report on developments concerning the collection of data in these areas.

3. 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 them. A secretariat note, to be issued as a GATT press release (GATT/1285) providing a summary and assessment of major developments in world trade in 1980 and a preliminary indication of prospects for international trade having regard to the interests of developing countries, will be available to the Committee.

4. Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries

The Sub-Committee's report on its first meeting held on 18 November 1980 is available to the Committee on Trade and Development in document COM.TD/LLDC/1.

5. Review of Implementation of Part IV and operation of the Enabling Clause

The annual review of the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement and the operation of the Enabling Clause was carried out by the Committee on Trade and Development at its November 1980 meeting on the basis of notifications provided by governments (COM.TD/W/321 and Addenda) and certain additional information provided by the secretariat on points of interest in relation to these matters (COM.TD/W/322 and Add.1). Members may wish to raise for consideration any developments in commercial policy measures that might have taken place in relation to the implementation of Part IV and the operation of the Enabling Clause since the last meeting of the Committee.

6. Other matters

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