

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development  
Forty-Seventh Session  
1-2 July 1981

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the forty-seventh 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

In accordance with its terms of reference, one of the main tasks of the Committee on Trade and Development is to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. For the present session of the Committee, a secretariat note summarizing certain developments in commercial policy measures and other developments of relevance to Part IV since the last annual review carried out by the Committee at its forty-fifth session in November 1981, is being circulated as COM.TD/W/367.

(b) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause

In the light of its primary responsibility for supervision of the implementation of the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries, the Committee has agreed that reviews of the operation of the Enabling Clause as provided for in its paragraph 9 might be co-ordinated with the Committee's reviews of the implementation of Part IV. Thus available information with respect to the operation of the Enabling Clause since the November 1981 meeting of the Committee is summarized as a separate section in COM.TD/W/367.

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

The Committee will be informed of the proceedings of the third meeting of the Sub-Committee.

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/368.

#### 4. Work on trade liberalization

At its meeting in April 1982, the Committee reviewed the progress made in the programme of consultations on trade liberalization in the areas of tropical products and quantitative restrictions held in March 1982, and considered how work in these areas might be carried forward. A number of comments and observations were made in this regard. In his summing up (COM.TD/110, Annex), the Chairman said:

"The Committee agreed that there is scope for further work in this area, with a view to seeking means of further liberalizing trade in products of interest to developing countries. It also agreed that the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at Ministerial level in November 1982 presents an opportunity for the consideration of specific measures of trade liberalization and of appropriate modalities for carrying forward the unfinished process of liberalization in this area. It agreed that it could carry out preparatory work to this end, with a view to facilitating decisions by Ministers."

With regard to tariff escalation, the Committee, at its session in November 1981, welcomed the decision of the Committee on Tariff Concessions to request the secretariat to proceed with work on tariff escalation by way of case studies in regard to selected chains of production or product areas to assess the feasibility of the approaches that had been suggested in TAR/W/18. The Committee noted that it would be kept informed of developments and thus have an opportunity to offer comments and observations on points of interest to it. The first secretariat study on the copper producing and copper consuming industries, is available in document TAR/W/26/COM.TD/W/361.

Following a discussion of the question of tariff escalation at the meeting of the Committee on Tariff Concessions held on 21 April 1982, the Chairman of that Committee, in a note (document TAR/57) on topics in the tariffs area which might be considered by the Ministers at the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, has, among other things, stated:

"There is a widespread belief among members of the Committee that tariff escalation is a factor inhibiting international trade. Ministers therefore could express appreciation for the problem and endorse further work, including the examination of possible means for reducing such escalation. The Committee is now studying this question on the basis of a secretariat paper on tariff escalation in the copper sector."

#### 5. GATT Ministerial Meeting

On the basis of a secretariat note, COM.TD/W/360, the Committee on Trade and Development at its session in April 1982 gave consideration to the question of the contribution that it might make to the preparatory work for the Ministerial Meeting in respect of issues directly falling within the competence of the Committee and in regard to aspects of global issues of priority concern to developing countries. Comments and suggestions made during that session are summarized in the Committee's proceedings

(COM.TD/110, paragraphs 16-24). At that session, the Committee agreed that the note on the proceedings of the Committee's forty-sixth session (COM.TD/110) should be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee as an initial contribution to the preparatory work for the Ministerial Meeting. In this context, it was agreed that the Committee should meet again in time to consider its further contribution to the preparatory work.

6. Technical assistance to developing countries

At its April 1982 session, the Committee carried out a review of technical assistance by the secretariat on the basis of a secretariat note COM.TD/W/359 which described the evolution and present status of GATT technical co-operation and training activities and an assessment of future needs in this area. There was widespread support in the Committee for the proposals made in that document. Comments and suggestions made during the meeting are summarized in paragraphs 25-26 of the Committee's proceedings (COM.TD/110). This item is also up for consideration by the Preparatory Committee.

7. Other matters

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