

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/378  
4 February 1983

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development  
Forty-ninth session  
8 March 1983

## FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE COMMITTEE

### Background note by the secretariat

In the light of the relevant decisions taken by Ministers during the 38th Session of the Contracting Parties, and of its ongoing work, the Committee on Trade and Development might hold an organizational meeting in early 1983 to examine the following specific points:

#### 1. Part IV

The procedures for reviewing the application of the provisions of Part IV in the Committee on Trade and Development should be adapted to the terms of paragraph 1 of the Decision by Ministers on GATT Rules and Activities Relating to Developing Countries, and to paragraph 1 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration. The following matters should therefore be examined in the Committee on Trade and Development:

##### (i) Adoption of procedures and timetable for a programme of individual or collective consultations with Contracting Parties

The Committee on Trade and Development should decide on how to carry out individual or collective consultations with Contracting Parties. A timetable for such consultations should be established, indicating the individual or collective consultations to be held, for example, over the following two or three-year period.

The Committee may decide that such consultations should be carried out in a session of the Committee.

##### (ii) Scope and content of consultations

The Committee on Trade and Development should decide on the scope of the individual or collective consultations, and how the exercise is to be related to specific provisions of Part IV.

##### (iii) Documentation

The Annex to the Ministerial Declaration provides for the preparation by the secretariat of factual background material for the consultations, as well as for information to be supplied by the

Contracting Party or Parties in question. The Committee on Trade and Development should decide on the scope of the background documentation to be prepared, as well as its time-frame.

(iv) Reporting procedures

The Committee on Trade and Development might decide that the results of the consultations will be embodied in a report, with conclusions as appropriate, to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(v) Overall yearly reviewing procedures

In order to avoid unnecessary duplication in carrying out the individual and collective consultations, the Committee should take account of information made available and any discussions held in the context of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures, and its overall yearly review of implementation of Part IV. Likewise, the information made available in the context of the consultations should also be taken into account for the purposes of the Sub-Committee and the yearly review.

2. Enabling Clause

The Committee on Trade and Development should decide on a timetable for the preparation of and the holding of a session to review the operation of the Enabling Clause, as called for in paragraph 2 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration. An airgram might be sent to Contracting Parties requesting information on the operation of the relevant provisions of the Enabling Clause, covering paragraphs 2 to 8.

3. Tropical Products

Arrangements need to be made by the Committee on Trade and Development to carry out "consultations and appropriate negotiations aimed at further liberalization of trade in tropical products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms". The following points might need consideration:

(i) Definition of the scope of the exercise (whether the coverage of products adopted for the informal consultations held previously under the Committee on Trade and Development on tropical products is adequate);

(ii) Background information (whether updated versions of the existing documentation is sufficient for the next stage of work);

(iii) Procedures for the next stage of work (e.g., whether interested countries might address request lists to importing countries for consultations and appropriate negotiations).

4. Proposal by the Ivory Coast on tropical agricultural products

The Committee on Trade and Development may hold a preliminary discussion on the proposal presented by the Ivory Coast to the Ministerial Meeting (document W.38/3). The Committee might also take note of work being pursued in other international organizations in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication.

5. Prospects for trade between developed and developing countries

The Committee on Trade and Development might consider which specific elements ought to be covered in carrying out the examination of "prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries and the possibilities in GATT for facilitating this objective" (paragraph 5 of the Decision on GATT Rules and Activities Relating to Developing Countries).

6. Other activities of the COM.TD

The COM.TD should note that the work of the Sub-Committees on Protective Measures and on the Trade of Least-Developed Countries should continue. It might invite these Sub-Committees to establish their own programme of work in the light of the relevant aspects of the decisions taken by Ministers at the 38th Session of the Contracting Parties, and to report back to the COM.TD.

The Sub-Committee on the Trade of Least-Developed Countries should be invited to keep under review the measures recommended in paragraph 3 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration, and should also decide whether any new procedures are required in order to "give more emphasis to the discussion and examination of policy issues of interest to least-developed countries in the context of further efforts to liberalize trade" (paragraph 3(g) of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration).

The Sub-Committee on Protective Measures should also review its procedures in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication with the consultations on Part IV to be carried out by the Committee on Trade and Development, as well as to ensure that full use of existing information can be made, thus also avoiding duplication of notifications.

The secretariat would also continue to prepare for the Committee on Trade and Development a background document on recent developments in world trade affecting developing countries, and on other activities in GATT.

Other activities under the Committee on Trade and Development, such as the consideration of regional preferential arrangements among developing countries, would continue as before.

Also as part of its review of activities in GATT relevant to the interests of developing countries, the Committee on Trade and Development would need to give continuing attention to the work of the Working Party on Structural Adjustment and Trade Policy and to follow the activities of the newly established Group on Non-Tariff Measures, from the point of view of ensuring that the interests of developing countries are receiving attention. Similarly, the Committee might pursue consideration of aspects of the question of tariff escalation which are of particular concern to developing countries.