

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development  
Fifty-first Session  
3, 4 and 7 November 1983

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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

1. 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. To provide a basis for discussion, delegations have available, in document GATT/1340, the first chapter of the GATT annual report, International Trade 1982/83, embodying its main conclusions. The first section of GATT/1340 reviews the latest data on world production and trade, and other aspects of the world economy in 1982 and the first half of 1983. The second section focuses on the issues confronting policy makers in the context of the current economic situation.

2. 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. The last review of the implementation of Part IV was carried out by the Committee at its forty-eighth session in October 1982, on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat on developments in commercial policy measures and other matters of interest in relation to Part IV and the Enabling Clause (COM.TD/W/374), and on the basis of notifications made by contracting parties (COM.TD/W/375 and Addenda).

As background for the 1983 annual review of Part IV, recent actions relevant to Part IV, as reported by governments in response to GATT/AIR/1906, will be circulated for consideration by the Committee. A secretariat note providing background information on commercial policy measures and other developments of interest in relation to Part IV and the Enabling Clause is also being circulated. In addition, the Committee will have before it a secretariat note containing a record of the proceedings of the Part IV consultations undertaken with Finland, Norway, Sweden, Austria and Hungary at the fiftieth session of the Committee in October 1983. Delegations may also wish to take into account the information in documents COM.TD/SCPM/W/17-21 made available for the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures of 27 and 30 September 1983. The Sub-Committee's report (COM.TD/SCPM/6) appears as a separate agenda item for this session of the Committee (see item 3 below).

(b) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause

In accordance with its primary responsibility for the supervision of the implementation of the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries, the Committee on Trade and Development, at its forty-eighth session in October 1982, carried out a review of the operation of the Enabling Clause on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat in Section II of COM.TD/W/374 and notifications submitted by governments (COM.TD/W/375 and Addenda).

For the purpose of the 1983 annual review of the operation of the Enabling Clause, the Committee will have before it notifications made by governments in response to GATT/AIR/1906, in addition to the information contained in Section II of the secretariat background note prepared for the annual review of Part IV and the Enabling Clause.

3. Programme of work arising from the Ministerial Declaration

(a) Programme of consultations on the implementation of Part IV

It will be recalled that the Committee on Trade and Development agreed at its forty-ninth session in March 1983 that the programme of consultations in regard to the application of the provisions of Part IV, called for by Ministers at the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, would form part of the regular annual reviews of the implementation of Part IV (paragraph 7 of Annex to COM.TD/114). The secretariat note containing a record of the proceedings of the 1983 consultations with Finland, Norway, Sweden, Austria and Hungary will be considered by the Committee under item 2(a) above. The Committee will also consider any points which delegations might wish to make about procedures for consultations and establish the programme of country consultations for 1984.

(b) Consultations and appropriate negotiations on tropical products

Following the decision taken by Ministers at the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in regard to consultations and appropriate negotiations aimed at further liberalization of trade in tropical products, to be carried out in the Committee on Trade and Development, the Committee agreed at its March 1983 session that a first round of consultations would be held in 1983, followed by further consultations and appropriate negotiations in 1984 (paragraph 9 of Annex to COM.TD/114). The 1983 consultations are scheduled for 7-11 November and will therefore take place after the end of year session of the Committee on Trade and Development. It is suggested that a secretariat note on the proceedings of the consultations be made available to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at their thirty-ninth session on 21-24 November. The Committee itself would have this note before it at its first session in 1984. It may also wish to consider the calendar for further consultations and appropriate negotiations in 1984.

(c) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause in accordance with its paragraph 9

In the light of the Ministerial Decision to review the operation of the Enabling Clause as provided for in its Paragraph 9, the Committee on Trade and Development agreed at its March 1983 session that this review would be initiated in the context of the regular annual review of the operation of the Enabling Clause in 1983 and then completed in 1984 (paragraph 8 of Annex to COM.TD/114). For the first part of this review, the Committee has before it notifications made by governments (COM.TD/W/390 and Addenda) in response to GATT/AIR/1930.

(d) Prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries

At the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES ministers instructed the Committee on Trade and Development to carry out "an examination of the prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries and the possibilities in GATT for facilitating this objective". The Committee had an initial exchange of views on this subject at its March 1983 session, and it was agreed that on the basis of informal consultations to be held by the Chairman of the Committee and appropriate background material prepared by the secretariat, this matter would be reverted to at the November 1983 session of the Committee (paragraphs 11-14 of Annex to COM.TD/114). Some informal consultations have been carried out by the Chairman and the outline of a possible secretariat study which would aim to facilitate the Committee's examination of this matter is being circulated to the Committee.

(e) Work of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries

The Committee on Trade and Development agreed at its forth-ninth session in March 1983 that the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries would (a) monitor the implementation of those aspects of the Ministerial Declaration which concern least-developed countries and (b) hold consultations between interested least-developed countries and their respective trading partners on issues related to their development and export interests, including the examination of barriers to their trade and any other relevant commercial policy matters (paragraph 15 of Annex to COM.TD/114). A note on the proceedings of the fourth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries, held in July 1983 to discuss its work programme in the light of the relevant ministerial decisions, is contained in document COM.TD/LLDC/4. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee will take place on 15-16 November, during which there will be ad hoc consultations between Bangladesh and its trading partners. Since this meeting will take place after the regular end of year session of the Committee on Trade and Development, it is suggested that a secretariat note on the proceedings of the Sub-Committee's meeting should be available to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-ninth session. The Committee itself will have this note before it at its first session in 1984.

#### 4. Sub-Committee on Protective Measures

The report of the Sub-Committee on its sixth session held on 27 and 30 September is available to the Committee on Trade and Development in document COM.TD/SCPM/6.

#### 5. Ivory Coast Proposal on trade in agricultural tropical products

The proposal made by the Ivory Coast to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-eighth session in November 1982 (W.38/3), in relation to tropical agricultural products, was referred by the Council to the Committee on Trade and Development in January 1983. At its March 1983 meeting the Committee discussed the proposal and agreed to revert to the matter following further reflection and informal consultations between interested parties (paragraph 10 of Annex to COM.TD/114). The Committee will consider this matter further in the light of informal consultations.

#### 6. Report of the Working Party on Structural Adjustment and Trade Policy

In the GATT Work Programme established at the conclusion of the Tokyo Round in 1979, it was agreed that one of the responsibilities of the Committee on Trade and Development concerned work on structural adjustment and trade of developing countries. It will be recalled that work on structural adjustment and its relevance to the GATT has been proceeding in the Working Party on Structural Adjustment and Trade Policy, which was established by the Council in November 1980 (C/M/144). The Working Party agreed that its reports should be transmitted to the Committee on Trade and Development and the Consultative Group of Eighteen, and to the Council (L/5120). Following the decision taken by ministers at the 1982 session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the effect that the work on structural adjustment and trade policy would be reviewed at the 1983 session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Working Party is meeting in October to adopt its report to the Council. This report will be before the Committee on Trade and Development for consideration.

#### 7. 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 connection, it receives the Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries concerning the operation of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries. The tenth Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries is being circulated in document L/5540.

#### 8. Technical assistance to developing countries

Paragraph 4 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration, which deals with GATT Rules and Activities Relating to Developing Countries, contains the decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to strengthen the Technical Co-operation Programme of the GATT with a view to facilitating the more

effective participation of developing countries in the GATT trading system. The implementation of this decision, together with the continuing technical co-operation activities of the GATT, will be reviewed by the Committee on the basis of a note by the secretariat which is being circulated.

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.