

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Trade and Development

WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PROBLEMS

The Working Group on International Commodity Problems was established at the March meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development (C.T. L/2410, pages 7 and 8) with the terms of reference set out below:

Terms of reference:

(i) to set forth in precise terms, on the basis of specific proposals, the positive measures that might be taken with a view to:

(a) attaining stable, equitable and remunerative prices for exports of the primary products of particular interest to less-developed countries, in conformity with paragraph 2(a) of Article XXXVIII of the General Agreement, and

(b) providing improved and acceptable conditions of access to world markets for such products,

commensurate with their present trade, and expected trade growth, having regard to their financial and development needs. In dealing with such proposals account shall be taken of experience with systems at the regional, bilateral, or national level which might serve as a guide for action towards the stabilization of prices for primary products, and of discussions and activities in any institutions set up on the basis of recommendations by the UNCTAD, and in other intergovernmental bodies concerned;

(ii) to consider specific proposals for bringing about effective and continuous co-operation between producers of synthetic and natural products, with a view to making the most efficient use of natural and synthetic resources, avoiding wasteful competition, and attaining the objectives set out in paragraph (i) above;

(iii) to submit a first report on its findings, and recommendations to the next meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development.

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As regards the membership, the Committee on Trade and Development agreed that the Group should be composed of representatives of the countries notifying the Director-General of their interest in participating in the work of the Group.

Notifications for membership in the Group have to date been received from the following countries:

Australia	Denmark	Netherlands
Argentina	Federal Republic of Germany	New Zealand
Belgium	Ghana	Niger
Brazil	Israel	Nigeria
Canada	Italy	Sweden
Ceylon	Japan	United Kingdom
Chile	Madagascar	United States

The Commission of the European Economic Community will also participate in the work of the Group.

H.E. M. Georges Bresson (Upper Volta) was nominated Chairman of the Group.