

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Sub-Committee on Trade of  
Least-Developed Countries  
15 November 1983

NOTE BY THE CHAIRMAN H.E. AMBASSADOR FERNANDO REINO (PORTUGAL)  
ON FIFTH MEETING

1. The fifth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries was held on 15 November 1983.
2. In accordance with the work programme established by the Sub-Committee at its fourth meeting in May 1983 (COM.TD/LLDC/4), covering, inter alia, the implementation of the decisions taken by Ministers at the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in regard to the trade interest of the least-developed countries, the Sub-Committee held the first ad hoc consultation between a least-developed country and its trading partners. The first consultation took place with Bangladesh and addressed the export and development interests of Bangladesh, including an examination of barriers affecting its trade and other relevant commercial policy matters. The Sub-Committee had before it a submission by Bangladesh (COM.TD/LLDC/W/10 and Addendum) containing requests for improved market access conditions on specific products in relation to tariffs, GSP rates and non-tariff measures. The Sub-Committee also had before it background information on the economy of Bangladesh prepared by the secretariat (COM.TD/LLDC/W/9). The Chairman's summing-up of the consultation with Bangladesh is reproduced as an annex to this note.
3. In addition, the Sub-Committee carried out a review of recent developments in international trade of relevance to the trade of least-developed countries and of commercial policy measures taken in favour of least-developed countries. Relevant background information for the review was provided by the secretariat in document COM.TD/LLDC/W.12. The Sub-Committee also had before it in document COM.TD/LLDC/W.11 tabulations identifying tariffs and non-tariff measures applied to products of export interest to the least-developed countries, together with trade data on these products. During the review a number of representatives stated that the documentation prepared by the secretariat was useful and expressed the hope that the secretariat would continue to provide this documentation and update it when necessary.
4. A note by the secretariat on the proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Sub-Committee will be circulated in due course.

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ANNEX I

Chairman's Summing-up of the Consultation with Bangladesh

This has been the first experience we have had in the Sub-Committee of ad hoc consultations between a least-developed country and its trading partners. I would like to express my gratitude to the representatives of Bangladesh and the other contracting parties who have participated in this exercise for the constructive manner in which the discussions have been undertaken. I am sure I am speaking for all the members of the Sub-Committee when I say that this procedure of consultations has been found to be a useful way of addressing the trade problems of least-developed countries in specific and concrete terms. We should regard this as a continuing process in which interested least-developed countries will have the opportunity to focus the attention of the Sub-Committee on their particular trade problems and interests.

In addition to providing the Sub-Committee with background information about the economy and economic plans of his country, the representative of Bangladesh submitted specific requests for improvements in tariff and GSP treatment on particular products, for the removal of certain non-tariff measures, and for improvements in rules of origin as they affect the exports of the least-developed countries. Some contracting parties provided preliminary information and responses in the light of the submissions by Bangladesh. It was understood that these submissions would be further examined in the respective capitals and that further contacts would be maintained with Bangladesh authorities on these requests through bilateral or multilateral channels. It is expected that the Sub-Committee will have an opportunity in the future to revert to these questions as appropriate.