

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
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## LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION

### Note by the Delegations of Brazil, Chile and Uruguay

At the thirteenth session the Governments of Chile and Brazil informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the studies which were being conducted in Latin America with a view to the gradual establishment of a regional market.

In the spirit of the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro of October 1958, and as was announced at the last session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay have initiated studies on the gradual and progressive integration of their economies, being confident that other Latin American countries would join them as soon as feasible.

These studies have been proceeded with after the last session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and a new round of consultations on commercial policies was thus held at Santiago, Chile on 6 April last under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Latin America. During this meeting experts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, acting in an individual capacity, have examined several alternative solutions which could resolve the trade problems between those countries.

On this occasion the experts prepared a draft Free Trade Area arrangement which has been examined by Latin American countries at the recent meeting held in Panama City. The draft arrangement would be open for final negotiation and signature by all countries of the continent.

On the other hand, the draft has been established with sufficient flexibility so that the proposed free trade area can, in practice, be enlarged at a subsequent stage. In fact, the view is held that it is highly desirable that all other Latin American countries should participate.

Experts observed that the draft could serve as a starting point for a wider instrument which might eventually cover the economic integration of the whole of Latin America.

As already indicated during the thirteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, as soon as the Latin American governments concerned have examined the draft and agreed on the final text, the matter will be brought to the consideration of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, for all relevant purposes.