

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Twenty-Fifth Session

## EXPANSION OF TRADE

### Conclusions Adopted on 29 November 1968

1. The CONTRACTING PARTIES take note of the continuing growth of international trade and underline the major rôle which GATT has played in the process of trade liberalization over the past twenty-one years and reaffirm their confidence in the General Agreement as the contractual basis for their trading relationships.
2. The CONTRACTING PARTIES reaffirm their intention fully to implement the results of the Kennedy Round and to pursue rapidly the intensified Programme of Work initiated at the twenty-fourth session designed to make practical progress towards increasingly liberal trade policies and practices including the necessary negotiations at the appropriate stages.<sup>1</sup>
3. Moreover, in view of the continuing decline in the developing countries' share of international trade and the urgent need for a substantial growth in their export earnings, the CONTRACTING PARTIES note that there is need to give priority consideration to, and to take immediate steps towards solving, the trade problems of these countries.
4. The CONTRACTING PARTIES are conscious in the perspective of recent international monetary difficulties of the risks to liberal trading practices that are inherent in the problems confronting certain major trading nations at the present time. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will keep under review the trade aspects of the temporary measures which the nations concerned have found it necessary to take.
5. The CONTRACTING PARTIES are unanimous in reaffirming their intention to continue, despite temporary difficulties, to pursue the liberalization and expansion of international trade according to the principles and objectives of the General Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup>The Government of France reserves its position on the words "including the necessary negotiations at the appropriate stages".

6. The CONTRACTING PARTIES request the Council to give appropriate supervision and guidance to the Committee on Trade and Development, the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products and the Agriculture Committee in the execution of their co-ordinated Work Programme for the Expansion of International Trade.
7. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the Committee on Trade and Development, the Committee should, where appropriate, initiate consultations in respect of tariff and non-tariff barriers and related problems not elsewhere under examination in the GATT affecting the exports of developing countries, with a view to seeking appropriate solutions for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-sixth session. The Committee should also follow closely the work in progress in other organs of GATT, such as the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products and the Agriculture Committee, and make appropriate suggestions so that, in investigating possible lines of action and seeking solutions, these Committees give early and adequate attention to questions of special concern to developing countries. In this connexion the CONTRACTING PARTIES note, in relation to the provisions of Part IV, that certain agricultural products are of major export interest to developing countries.
8. The CONTRACTING PARTIES note that the Committee on Trade and Development intends to carry out a detailed examination of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement and to recommend measures for securing more effective and systematic implementation and that for this purpose the Committee would establish appropriate machinery.
9. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products and the Agriculture Committee should move rapidly from the stage of study and of identification of problems to that of seeking mutually acceptable solutions. These Committees will report to the Council, before the twenty-sixth session, on the results of their work so as to enable the CONTRACTING PARTIES to take appropriate decisions. However, it was agreed that such opportunities as might arise for the settlement of particular trade problems in the period prior to the twenty-sixth session should be pursued. In this connexion special attention should be given to arriving at solutions to problems affecting the export trade of developing countries.
10. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that, as soon as the basic documentation for the tariff study becomes available early in 1969, possible lines of action should be actively investigated by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, taking into account discussions at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the various opportunities for making progress toward trade liberalization.
11. The basic documentation should also cover, on a priority basis, the following problems of particular interest to developing countries: (a) tariff differentials, (b) specific duties, (c) peak tariffs and (d) tariffs on industrial raw materials, and indicate possible lines of future action in these and other fields.

12. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that, on the basis of the information in the inventory of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers and any information that might be subsequently furnished by contracting parties, the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, during its examination of those barriers, should explore the possibilities for concrete action in that field, both with regard to reducing or removing such barriers and to developing possible rules of conduct.
13. The secretariat will assist developing countries to prepare notifications of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers to their trade in the markets of other contracting parties. The particular problems of these countries will be given special attention in the further action by the contracting parties in this field.
14. The CONTRACTING PARTIES approve the detailed work programme established by the Agriculture Committee.
15. The CONTRACTING PARTIES request the Committee to complete rapidly the identification of the problems affecting agricultural trade and production, so that it can proceed with the essential task of seeking mutually acceptable solutions to these problems. In this context, in view of the increasingly difficult problems in agricultural trade and production and the fact that substantial work has already been carried out in GATT on some products such as meat, the Committee should consider, where possible, medium-term solutions which would pave the way for basic long-term solutions and also ease the pressures in the interim.
16. In addition, the CONTRACTING PARTIES invite the parties engaged under the procedures adopted at the twenty-fourth session in the search for mutually acceptable solutions to urgent problems affecting particular products to work out such solutions rapidly.
17. The CONTRACTING PARTIES request the Group on Tropical Products to continue its task of exploring ways and means of resolving problems in the trade in tropical products on a commodity-by-commodity basis, taking into account the work done in other international bodies.
18. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that developed contracting parties should make further efforts to explore, individually and jointly, the possibility of implementing immediately Kennedy Round concessions on additional products of interest to developing countries.
19. The CONTRACTING PARTIES note the conclusion reached at the second UNCTAD with regard to a general non-discriminatory scheme of preferences in favour of developing countries and affirm their readiness to take appropriate action when the scheme has been negotiated.
20. The CONTRACTING PARTIES note that multilateral trade arrangements may be concluded among developing countries during 1969 within the framework of the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries. They recall the conclusions adopted at their twenty-third session that the establishment of preferences among developing countries, appropriately administered and subject

to the necessary safeguards, can make an important contribution to the expansion of trade among these countries and to the attainment of the objectives of the General Agreement and intend to look at the results of the current negotiations in a constructive and forward-looking spirit.

21. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will give appropriate consideration to proposals for measures which could be taken within the framework of GATT aimed at ensuring that the results of negotiations between developing countries bring benefits for the trade of these countries.

22. The CONTRACTING PARTIES reaffirm their support for the International Trade Centre and urge all contracting parties to continue to make available adequate resources to the Centre for full implementation of its programme of work.