

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TBT/W/67/Rev.1

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Special Distribution

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Note by the Secretariat

Revision

1. At the close of the first three-year review of the operation and implementation of the Agreement, the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade agreed to keep the subject of technical assistance on its agenda for subsequent meetings and to revert to it as needed in the light of any relevant developments (TBT/M/12, para. 35).
2. This item had been placed on the agenda of the Committee at a previous meeting (TBT/M/7) and reports on technical assistance activities have been included in the background documentation for annual reviews of the operation and implementation of the Agreement (TBT/6 and Suppl.1 and 2, TBT/10 and Suppl.1 and 2, TBT/17 and Suppl.1). The secretariat has also circulated an information paper describing technical assistance activities by Parties or by international organizations of which they are members (TBT/W/28 and Suppl.1).
3. A letter was sent by the secretariat to signatories in August 1983 inviting delegations to focus on the ways in which provisions of Article 11 on technical assistance could be given concrete operational significance. In the light of consultations held on the matter, it is suggested that the Committee might play a rôle in channelling information on requests and offers of technical assistance, it being understood that this rôle should not be construed as a form of monitoring of such assistance.
4. The proposal put forward by the secretariat to deal with this matter (TBT/W/67) was discussed at the fifteenth meeting of the Committee (TBT/M/15, para. 20-26) and in informal consultations. In the light of these discussions, the following procedures for exchange of information are suggested:

Specific needs for technical assistance as well as information that may be provided by potential donor countries on their technical assistance programmes would be communicated to Parties through the secretariat. In agreement with requesting countries or potential donor countries, as the case may be, the information concerning specific needs and technical assistance programmes would be circulated by the secretariat to all signatories on an informal basis. Whilst information would be multilateralized in this manner, technical assistance would continue to be provided on a bilateral basis. The secretariat would reflect the information circulated under this procedure in the documentation prepared for annual reviews of the implementation and operation of the Agreement if the Parties concerned so agree.

Technical assistance would remain as an item of the projected agenda of the Committee and would be included on the agenda of a regular meeting of the Committee when so requested by a signatory in accordance with the agreed procedures.