

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/418
29 October 1984

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development
Fifty-fourth Session
13-14 and 16 November 1984

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. Review of developments in international trade

The Committee undertakes a regular review of developments in international trade having regard to the trade and payments position of developing countries, with particular reference to developments in trade in primary commodities. To provide a basis for discussion, delegations have available, in document GATT/1363, the first chapter of the GATT annual report, International Trade 1983/84, embodying its main conclusions. The first section of GATT/1363 reviews the latest data on world production and trade, and other aspects of the world economy in 1983 and the first half of 1984. The second section focuses on the issues confronting policy makers in the context of the current economic situation.

2. Annual review of the implementation of Part IV and operation of the Enabling Clause

(a) Review of implementation of Part IV

According to its terms of reference, one of the main functions of the Committee on Trade and Development is to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. The last review of the implementation of Part IV was undertaken by the Committee at its fifty-first session in November 1983. This review was carried out on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat on developments in commercial policy measures and other matters of interest in relation to Part IV and the Enabling Clause (COM.TD/W/394), and on the basis of notifications made by contracting parties (COM.TD/W/395 and Addenda). The Committee also had before it a note by the secretariat on the Part IV consultations which took place at the fiftieth session of the Committee in October 1983 with Finland, Norway, Sweden, Austria and Hungary (COM.TD/115 and Corr.1), and the report of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures on its sixth session, held in September 1983 (COM.TD/SCPM/6).

As background for the 1984 annual review of Part IV, recent actions relevant to Part IV, as reported by governments in response to GATT/AIR/2065, will be circulated for consideration by the Committee. A secretariat note providing background information on commercial policy measures and other developments of interest in relation to Part IV and the Enabling Clause is also being circulated. In addition, a secretariat note containing a record of the proceedings of the Part IV consultations undertaken with the European Communities, the United States, Japan, and a group of developing countries members of ALADI (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay) at the fifty-third session of the Committee in

session of the Committee in October 1984. Delegations may also wish to take into account the information in documents COM.TD/SCPM/W/23-27 and COM.TD/SCPM/W/28 and Add.1, which was made available for the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures of 21 September 1984. The Sub-Committee report (COM.TD/SCPM/7) appears as a separate agenda item for this session of the Committee (see item 4 below).

(b) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause

In accordance with its primary responsibility for the supervision of the implementation of the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries, the Committee on Trade and Development, at its fifty-first session in November 1983, carried out a review of the operation of the Enabling Clause on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat in Section II of COM.TD/W/394 and notifications submitted by governments (COM.TD/W/395 and Addenda).

For the purpose of the 1984 annual review of the operation of the Enabling Clause, the Committee will have before it notifications made by governments in response to GATT/AIR/2065, in addition to the information contained in Section I of the secretariat background note prepared for the annual review of Part IV and the Enabling Clause.

3. Programme of work arising from the Ministerial Declaration

(a) Programme of consultations on the implementation of Part IV

It will be recalled that the Committee agreed at its forty-ninth session in March 1983 that the programme of consultations in regard to the application of the provisions of Part IV, called for by Ministers at the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, would form part of the regular annual reviews of the implementation of Part IV (paragraph 7 of Annex to COM.TD/114). The secretariat note containing a record of the proceedings of the 1984 consultations with the European Communities, the United States, Japan and a group of developing countries members of ALADI (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay) will be considered by the Committee under item 2(a) above. Under this item of the Agenda the Committee may wish to exchange views on the experience with the programme of consultations, any suggestions regarding its future organization and also consider the programme of Part IV consultations for 1985.

(b) Consultations and appropriate negotiations on tropical products

Following the decision taken by Ministers at the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in regard to consultations and appropriate negotiations aimed at further liberalization of trade in tropical products, to be carried out in the Committee on Trade and Development, the Committee held consultations in November 1983 and May 1984. Secretariat notes on the proceedings of these consultations were made available to participating contracting parties in documents Spec(83)55/Rev.1 and Spec(84)-27/Rev.1 and Corr.1 respectively. In addition, the Committee will have before it in document COM.TD/W/409 a summary of the current situation in regard to tariff and non-tariff measures affecting tropical products, and also in regard to requests for trade liberalization and measures adopted since 1979.

(c) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause in accordance with its paragraph 9

In the light of the Ministerial Decision to review the operation of the Enabling Clause as provided for in its paragraph 9, the Committee on Trade and Development agreed at its March 1983 Session that this review would be initiated in the context of the regular annual review of the operation of the Enabling Clause in 1983 and then completed in 1984 (paragraph 8 of Annex to COM.TD/114). For the first part of this review, the Committee had before it notifications made by governments, contained in document COM.TD/W/390 and Addenda.

(d) Prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries

At the thirty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES Ministers instructed the Committee on Trade and Development to carry out "an examination of the prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries and the possibilities in GATT for facilitating this objective". At its fifty-second session in June 1984, the Committee had an exchange of views on this subject, which was based on background material prepared by the secretariat (COM.TD/W/412 and Add.1).

(e) Work of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries

The Committee on Trade and Development agreed at its forty-ninth session in March 1983 the the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries would (a) monitor the implementation of the aspects of the Ministerial Declaration which concerned the least-developed countries and (b) hold consultations between interested least-developed countries and their respective trading partners on issues related to their development and export interests, including an examination of barriers to their trade and other relevant commercial policy matters (paragraph 15 of Annex to COM.TD/114). The Sub-Committee held consultations with Bangladesh at its fifth meeting in November 1983, and with Tanzania in its sixth meeting in October 1984. A secretariat note on the proceedings of the sixth meeting is being prepared for circulation.

The Committee will be required to assess the progress made in regard to the above aspects of the Ministerial Work Programme, and to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their November session.

4. Sub-Committee on Protective Measures

The report of the Sub-Committee on its seventh session held on 21 September 1984 is available to the Committee on Trade and Development in document COM.TD/SCPM/7.

5. Expansion of trade among developing countries

In accordance with GATT's post-MTN Work Programme, the Committee continues to serve as a forum for following developments in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries. In this connection, it receives the annual report of the Committee of Participating Countries concerning the Operation of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries. The eleventh annual report of the Committee of Participating Countries has been circulated in document L/5686 and Addenda.

6. Technical Assistance to Developing Countries

Paragraph 4 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration, which deals with GATT rules and activities relating to developing countries, contains the decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to strengthen the technical cooperation programme of the GATT with a view to facilitating the more effective participation of developing countries in the GATT trading system. The implementation of this decision, together with the continuing technical cooperation activities of the GATT, will be reviewed by the Committee on the basis of a note by the secretariat which is being circulated. The Committee will also be required to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their fortieth session on this matter.

7. Other matters

Delegations might wish to raise for discussion any other matters relevant to the work of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.