

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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AD HOC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THEIR TRADING PARTNERS - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

Submission by the Democratic Republic of Sudan

The following communication, dated 4 September 1985, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

1. The Democratic Republic of Sudan wishes to avail itself of the opportunity provided by the ad hoc consultations between individual least-developed countries and their trading partners, which take place in the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries, to address a number of requests to certain trading partners for action on their part in order to increase the exports and foreign exchange earning capacity of the Sudan. These requests are outlined below in two sections. The first section covers areas where technical assistance would be useful in overcoming particular problems which tend to reduce export volumes or export prices. The second section consists of requests for the removal of certain tariffs and non-tariff measures which affect Sudanese exports to the markets concerned.

General problems and requests

2. A country like the Democratic Republic of Sudan inevitably faces a range of technical and logistical problems in its efforts to expand and diversify the sources of its export earnings. Those problems include inadequate infrastructure (e.g. transport and storage facilities), poor management, a lack of trained manpower, poor sorting and grading facilities for certain products, inadequate packaging facilities for exports, and difficulties in meeting certain requirements or product specifications laid down by importing countries. In one way or another, these difficulties either serve to reduce the volume of Sudan's exports below what it might be, or lead to the necessity to accept price discounts and sell at below world prices. Many of these problems are receiving close attention, both from the Sudanese authorities and some of Sudan's trading partners, but much remains to be done. Any renewed or extended efforts by the trading partners of Sudan to provide technical assistance aimed at solving these problems would be most welcome, whether provided bilaterally or through appropriate multilateral agencies.

3. In relation to difficulties encountered in meeting certain quality requirements or product specifications in importing countries, there are two issues which warrant specific mention, in the cotton and groundnut sectors. For cotton, the well-known problem of "honey dew" or "stickiness" occasioned by the white fly has continued to affect the cotton crop, particularly medium-staple cotton. Stickiness has resulted in reduced sales or in price discounts in some markets, implying significant losses of foreign exchange for the country. Despite efforts by certain donor countries and by the Sudanese authorities to address this matter, both at the growing and processing stages, the problem persists. The authorities of Sudan request that consideration be given to the possibility of providing further technical assistance in this area, particularly in view of its trade implications.

4. In the case of groundnuts and groundnut cake and meal, Sudanese exporters are facing considerable difficulties in meeting standards in relation to minimum acceptable levels of aflatoxin contamination, particularly in the European Communities. EEC regulations have recently been modified to reduce the acceptable level of aflatoxin in certain products, including groundnuts, and this has compounded the problem for exporters. Although efforts are being made by the African Groundnut Council, with financial assistance from the EEC, to reduce contamination levels, the Sudanese authorities request that consideration be given by Sudan's trading partners to ways of further assisting in dealing with this problem.

5. Finally, Sudanese exporters have identified the following additional specific areas where new or further technical or financial assistance could lead to significant increases in export earnings:

- (i) improved facilities and/or methods for reducing the dirt content in sesame seeds and Sudan tea (Karkadeh);
- (ii) improved methods (mechanical) of flaying the hides of cattle, sheep and goats in order to avoid damage to the hides.

Specific requests

6. Requests for the removal or reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers referred to in the table below are addressed by Sudan to its trading partners.

AUSTRALIA

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
ex 07.04	Dried, dehydrated or evaporated vegetables, whole, cut, sliced, etc. (onions)	A\$ 0.4/kg.	-	-	GSP: 0	-	-
ex 07.05	Dried peas and beans not for sowing	26% (partially by law-duty free)	-	-	GSP: 0	-	-
ex 15.07	Vegetable oils - unfit for immediate human consumption (groundnut oil, cotton seed oil, sesame seed oil)	10% (partially by law - 0%)	-	-	GSP: 0	-	-
17.03	Molasses whether or not decolourized	4.6%	0	-	-	Prohibition	-
20.06	Nuts roasted, in packings of more than 1 kg. in groundnuts	5.1%	-	-	GSP: 0	-	-
55.05	Cotton yarn not put up for retail sale	Various zero and positive rates	Various zero and positive rates	-	GSP: 0	-	-

AUSTRIA

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
ex 07.05	Dried peas and beans not for sowing	0-15%	-	-	LDC: 0		
17.03	Molasses whether or not decolourized. <u>Note:</u> Should economic conditions so require, the Federal Ministry of Finance may, with the agreement of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Federal Ministry of Trade and Industry, grant partial or total exemption from duty in respect of molasses of this heading when intended for the manufacture of ethyl alcohol, yeasts, citric acid, sweetened forage or beet saline.	S 14.00/100 kg.	-	-	LDC: 0		
55.05	Cotton yarn	8-15%	4-7.5%	4-7.5%	LDC: 0		

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NTM	Remarks
General							General level of imports from Sudan very low in relation to size of market. Governmental efforts needed to boost imports from Sudan
17.03	Molasses	0.8, 1.2%	-	-	LDC: 0		-

EBC

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	IDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
10.07	Sorghum, millet	-	-	-	-	Levies	-
15.07	Groundnut oil, cotton seed oil, sesame seed oil	-	-	-	-	Levies	-
17.03	Molasses	-	-	-	-	Levies	-
23.04	Groundnut cake and meal, cottonseed cake and meal, sesame seed cake and meal	-	-	-	-	Levies	-

FINLAND

Tariff Number COON	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
ex 07.04	Dried, dehydrated or evaporated onions	10%	-	-	IDC: 0		
ex 07.05	Dried peas and beans, not for sowing	0-55%	-	-	IDC: 0	Discretionary Licensing	Special consideration for least- developed countries
ex 08.01	Mangoes, guavas, dates	-	-	-		Discretionary Licensing	Ditto
ex 15.07	Groundnut oil, cotton seed oil, sesame seed oil	0-16%	-	-	IDC: 0		
17.03	Molasses whether or not decolourized	Various positive rates and levies	-	-	IDC: 0	Discretionary Licensing	Ditto
ex 42.03	Sheep and lambskin leather	8-15%	-	-	IDC: 0		
55.05	Cotton yarn not put up for retail sale	7-12% (FIMKO.39-1.88/kg.)	-	-	IDC: 0		

JAPAN

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
ex 07.05	Dried peas and beans not for sowing	10%	-	-	LDC: 0	QR	Removal of quantitative restrictions
ex 15.07	Groundnut oil, sesame seed oil, cotton seed oil, castor oil	0-13.7%	-	-	LDC: 0	-	-
ex 15.15	Beeswax	15%	7.5%	7.5%	LDC: 0	-	-
ex 17.03	Molasses	Various positive rates	-	-	LDC: 0	-	-
ex 41.03	Sheep and lambskin leather	5.3%, 7.5%	0	-	-	Discretionary licensing	Special consideration to imports from least-developed countries

NEW ZEALAND

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
ex 07.04	Dried, dehydrated or evaporated onions	35%	20%	0		ex global quota ex prohibition	Relaxation in favour of least-developed countries
ex 15.15	Beeswax	20%	0	0		ex global quota ex prohibition	Relaxation in favour of least-developed countries
17.03	Molasses	0	0	0		Import restrictions	Relaxation in favour of least-developed countries
23.04	Oil cakes	17.5%	15%	0		Global quota	-

SWEDEN

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
17.03	Molasses	-	-	-	-	Quotas	Special consideration for least- developed countries
42.03	Articles of apparel and clothing and accessories - of leather	7.9%-10%	-	-	GSP: 0	-	-
55.05	Cotton yarns	0%, 7%	-	-	GSP: 0	-	-

SWITZERLAND

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	IDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
General							
17.03	Molasses	20.0%; 37.0%	-		IDC: 0	-	Imports from Sudan have been declining
23.04	Oilcakes	0.4%	0	0	-	Global quota	

UNITED STATES

Tariff Number CCCN	Product Description	MFN	GSP	LDC	Requests on Tariffs	NIM	Remarks
ex 17.03	Molasses	0.2%-17.7%	0	-	-	Global quota	
ex 12.01	Watermelon seed	5%	-	-	GSP: 0	-	
42.02) 41.03)	Leather in the rough, partly finished, or finished of calf and kip of bovine of goat and kid	3.3%-6.4% 5% 4%	- - -	3.1%-5.5% - 3.7%	GSP: 0 GSP: 0 GSP: 0	- - -	
ex 55.01	Raw cotton - staple length equal to or more than 1 1/8 inches but less than 1 1/16 inches	US\$2.00/lb (2.3% au)	-	-	GSP: 0	Global quota	
55.05	Cotton yarn	various positive rates	-	-	GSP: 0	-	
22.05) 32.07) 32.09)	Solvent dtes	20%	-	-	GSP: 0	-	
64.02	Leather footwear n.e.s. valued over \$2.50 per pair not for men, youths or boys	10%	-	-	GSP: 0	-	