

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development
Fifty-Eighth Session
11-12 and 15 November 1985

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the Fifty-Eighth 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/1374, the first chapter of the GATT Annual Report, International Trade 1984/85, embodying its main conclusions. The first section of GATT/1374 reviews the latest data on world production and trade, and other aspects of the world economy in 1984 and the first half of 1985. The second section examines how the pattern of international trade has changed over the last twenty years or so. The third 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-fourth session in November 1984. 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/419). The Committee also had before it a note by the secretariat (COM.TD/118) on the Part IV consultations which took place at the fifty-third session of the Committee in October 1984 with the European Communities, the United States, Japan, and a group of developing countries members of ALADI (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay). Also before the Committee was the report of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures on its seventh session, held in September 1984 (COM.TD/SCPM/7). As background for the 1985 annual review of Part IV, recent actions relevant to Part IV, as reported by governments in response to GATT/AIR/2211, 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, secretariat notes containing records of the

proceedings of Part IV consultations undertaken with Canada and Switzerland at the fifty-sixth session of the Committee in June 1985, and with Australia and New Zealand at the fifty-seventh session of the Committee in October 1985 will be before the Committee. Delegations may also wish to take into account the information in document COM.TD/SCPM/W/30, which was made available for the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures of 8 October 1985. The Sub-Committee report (COM.TD/SCPM/8) 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-fourth session in November 1984, carried out a review of the Enabling Clause on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat in Section I of COM.TD/W/419.

For the purpose of the 1985 annual review of the operation of the Enabling Clause, the Committee will have before it notifications made by governments in response to GATT/AIR/2211, in addition to the information contained in 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 notes containing records of the proceedings of the 1985 consultations with Canada, Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand 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 and any suggestions regarding its future organization and timetable.

(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 tropical products, to be carried out in the Committee on Trade and Development, the Committee held consultations in November 1983 and May 1984. Since these consultations were held, this matter has been discussed by the Committee at its fifty-second, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions. For this session, the Committee has before it a secretariat note, prepared in March 1985, which provides an overview of the post-Tokyo Round work of the Committee on tropical products (COM.TD/W/424).

(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). At the request of certain delegations, this matter has remained on the agenda of the Committee.

(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, Fifty-Fourth, and Fifty-Fifth sessions, 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 that the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries would (a) monitor the implementation of 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, with Tanzania at its sixth meeting in October 1984 and with Sudan at its eighth meeting in October 1985. Secretariat notes on the proceedings of the seventh and eighth meetings will be before the Committee.

4. Sub-Committee of Protective Measures

The report of the Sub-Committee on its Eighth Session held on 8 October 1985 will be available to the Committee on Trade and Development in document COM.TD/SCPM/8.

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 twelfth annual report of the Committee of Participating Countries will be before the Committee.

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 the 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.

7. Any 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.