

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited distribution

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Committee on Trade and Development

Sixty-Second Session

19, 20 and 26 October 1987

### TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. At its Sixtieth Session in November 1986, the Committee on Trade and Development reviewed the technical co-operation programme of the GATT secretariat and, in the light of the agreement reached by Ministers at the conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting in Punta del Este that "In order to participate fully in the negotiations, developing countries would require technical support. Technical support by the secretariat, adequately strengthened, should be available to developing countries participating in the negotiations", discussed the question of further strengthening of the programme, so as to be able to respond to the much larger anticipated requirements of developing countries for technical assistance and support in connection with their participation in the Uruguay Round negotiations. For the purpose of this discussion, the Committee had before it a note prepared by the secretariat (COM.TD/W/445) outlining the objectives, scope and principles on the basis of which the future technical co-operation activities of the GATT secretariat were proposed to be organised. A record of these discussions is contained in the Report of the Committee on Trade and Development to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (document L/6092, paragraphs 34 to 39).

2. At its Sixty-First Session in June this year, the Committee on Trade and Development was briefly informed, in a note by the secretariat (COM.TD/W/450), of the technical co-operation activities of the secretariat since its Sixtieth Session. The following paragraphs give an updated summary of the technical co-operation activities of the secretariat since the Sixtieth Session of the Committee.

#### Country Studies

3. Information was compiled and made available to a number of developing countries, on request, identifying items of their export interest in selected individual markets, together with relevant data on trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures, to assist the concerned developing countries in determining their priorities in the negotiations.

Tariffs, NTM and Trade Data

4. Data on tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade flows in respect of particular products and product groups was made available to a number of developing countries, on request, in connection with their participation in the negotiations in the areas of tropical products, natural resource-based products, tariffs, non-tariff measures, etc.

Factual Background Notes

5. Factual background notes on some subjects covered in the Uruguay Round negotiations were prepared and made available, on request, to developing country delegations.

Briefing of delegations and officials

6. Visiting officials and delegations from the capitals of a number of developing countries were given briefings on the progress of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations in sectors or areas of their particular interest.

Country Missions and Seminars

7. There have been continuing requests from developing countries for visits from GATT officials for briefings of concerned officials in national capitals, on particular subjects, and for trade policy seminars in the capitals in connection with their participation in GATT's continuing work and the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, with the result that this has been an important dimension of the technical cooperation activities of the secretariat.

8. Officials from the secretariat visited a number of developing countries, at their request, on technical missions, to advise concerned officials in governments in regard to particular issues related to GATT's work, or in connection with the process of accession of these countries to GATT.

9. The secretariat organised or participated in a number of national trade policy seminars in developing countries. Some of these were general trade policy seminars covering all aspects of GATT's work as well as the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, and were designed to assist concerned officials in national administrations in a clearer understanding of the nature and operation of the rules of international trade and the multilateral trading

system, and the nature, scope and objectives of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations. Some other of these seminars were more specialised, focusing on a few specific subjects, such as procedures in selected developed countries in regard to investigation of demands or petitions for levy of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, and subjects covered in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations of particular interest to the concerned developing countries. The programme of each seminar is prepared in consultation with the host country and reflects its particular interests, priorities and requirements.

10. Apart from national seminars, the secretariat also organised or participated in a number of regional trade policy seminars during the period under review. A regional trade policy seminar for officials from the African countries was organised at Dakar, Senegal, from 6 to 11 April 1987. A regional trade policy seminar for officials from Central American countries, members of the SIECA, was organised in Guatemala from 4 to 8 May 1987; another regional seminar on trade policy for officials from Latin American countries, members of ALADI, was organised at Montevideo, Uruguay, from 21 to 25 September 1987. Financial resources for the three seminars were contributed by the Federal Republic of Germany.

11. The secretariat also participated in and provided technical support to a regional workshop organised by the Commonwealth Regional Consultative Group on Trade (CRCGT) in Geneva from 22 June to 3 July, and to another regional seminar on the Uruguay Round Trade Negotiations organised by the secretariat of the Caribbean Community at Kingston, Jamaica, from 7 to 11 September 1987.

12. The secretariat has also been cooperating, as far as possible, with some international organisations, such as UNCTAD and the World Bank, in the context of their technical assistance activities relating to the Uruguay Round negotiations. Such cooperation will continue to be extended, on a pragmatic basis, in the future.

13. The need for organising general trade policy seminars, or specialised seminars or workshops on particular subjects, including subjects covered in the Uruguay Round negotiations, on a regional or sub-regional basis, is felt in many developing countries. It may be expected, and there are already some indications, that requests for such seminars would increase in the future, as the Uruguay Round negotiations gather further momentum. The secretariat is not in a position to finance regional or sub-regional seminars from its regular budget. Voluntary financial contributions from the European Economic Community and the Federal Republic of Germany have financed the regional and sub-regional seminars organised by the secretariat in recent years. Similar voluntary financial support from

other Contracting Parties will enable the secretariat to carry this programme forward and will be greatly appreciated. The secretariat is ready to discuss with interested contracting parties the arrangements that could be worked out in this regard.

14. The programmes of national as well as regional and sub-regional seminars, covering general trade policy questions as well as specific issues of more particular interest to the developing countries concerned, are always prepared in consultation with the host countries. The secretariat will endeavour to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, these programmes respond and relate to the particular situation and specific needs of the relevant countries or regions, and focus on their particular interests and concerns. The secretariat remains open to suggestions for more effectively relating its technical cooperation activities to ongoing needs of developing countries in the context of the Uruguay Round. In this connexion, it intends to consult actively with the least-developed contracting parties on the particular problems affecting their participation in these negotiations.

#### Technical Assistance in the Textiles and Clothing Sector

15. The provision of technical assistance in the field of textiles has been maintained during the period under review. The Technical Consultant (Textiles) continued to make available background material and statistical data to individual delegations upon request. Many delegations of developing countries, particularly small exporters and least-developed countries, were provided assistance, on request, in securing relevant material relating to issues arising in bilateral consultations and to matters for consideration by the Textiles Surveillance Body.