

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Textiles Committee

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES AND CLOTHING BUREAU

The following communication, dated 30 September 1988, addressed to the Chairman of the Textiles Committee, has been received from the Chairman of the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau.

"I have the honour to request that the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB) may kindly be accorded observer status with the GATT Textiles Committee.

I shall therefore be grateful if this request is submitted to the Textiles Committee as early as possible.

The International Textiles and Clothing Bureau, which is an intergovernmental organization has been established inter alia to provide technical support to its members for bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations relating to textiles and clothing. I am providing in the enclosed sheet, the basic information on the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB)."¹

¹Annex attached.

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING THE
INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES AND CLOTHING BUREAU

History

1. A Programme of Co-operation Among Developing Countries, Exporters of Textiles and Clothing was launched in 1981 to provide technical support for the negotiations on the second renewal of the Multifibre Agreement (MFA).
2. The Principal aims and objectives of the Programme were to permit participating members to resist the discriminatory protectionist measures taken against them in the field of textiles and clothing. As these measures continued to spread and intensify with the continuation of MFA, the participating members of the Programme of Co-operation felt the need to institutionalize their co-operation through the creation of the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau. ITCB formally came into force on 12 December 1984.

Aims and objectives

3. The objectives of the Bureau, as defined in article 2 of the Arrangement establishing the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau, are:
 - (a) To achieve the elimination of discrimination and protectionism directed against Members' exports of textiles and clothing in world markets and the full application of the rules and principles as enunciated in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to the world trade in textiles and clothing products;
 - (b) To assist Members, in the interim, in ensuring rights under the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (1974), as extended, are effectively enforced; and
 - (c) To assist Members to enable their effective participation in all relevant international forums dealing with the textiles and clothing sector.
4. The above objectives are to be realized through the following activities:
 - (a) To develop specific programmes and to co-ordinate all forms of activities which may contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Bureau;
 - (b) To collect, analyse and disseminate to Members information pertinent to textiles and clothing trade;
 - (c) To provide assistance and advice to Members (including on an individual basis) with respect to the general pursuit of their trade policy objectives in the textiles and clothing sector, and textile negotiations in particular;
 - (d) To render assistance and advice to Members in case of trade disputes in the textiles and clothing sector;

- (e) To conduct studies on matters relevant to trade in textiles and clothing of general interest as well as for individual Members;
- (f) To present the point of view of the Members through publications, publicity, participation in public forums, use of mass media, etc., with a view to, inter alia, informing public opinion as to the costs of protectionism in the textiles and clothing sector;
- (g) To organize seminars, workshops and co-ordination meetings relevant to the carrying out of these functions.

Membership

5. According to article 4, membership of the Bureau is open to all developing countries and territories, exporters of textiles and clothing, participating in the Programme of Co-operation among Developing Countries, Exporters of Textiles and Clothing. The following countries and territories are signatories to the Arrangement: Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Korea (Republic of), Macao, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. Developing countries and territories, exporters of textiles and clothing, acceding to this Arrangement in accordance with article 21, shall also become members of the Bureau.

Structure

7. The highest authority of the Arrangement is the Council of Representatives, consisting of all members of the Bureau. The Council holds at least one regular session a year to adopt the work programme and to approve the budget. Decisions of the Council are taken by a simple majority with the exception of decisions concerning the work programme and the budget (which is taken by a two-thirds majority), denial of rights and duration of the Arrangement (which requires a three-fourths majority of the Members of the Bureau).

Financial resources

8. The budget of the Bureau is funded by annual contributions from Members, calculated according to their respective shares of total exports of textile and clothing products to those countries generally regarded as importers under the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA). It can also receive voluntary contributions from members and non-members.

Publications

9. None.

Liaison

10. Liaison with GATT will be maintained by the Executive Director of ITCB Mr. Mohammad A. Bajwa.

Address

11. The address of ITCB is: International Textiles and Clothing Bureau
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