

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/135

17 March 1989

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
Meeting to be held on 30 March 1989

The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries will hold its fifty-third meeting on 30 March 1989, at 11 a.m. in the Centre William Rappard, 154, rue de Lausanne, Geneva. The meeting will also be open to delegations of countries having signed but not yet ratified the Protocol.

The following items have been proposed for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting.

1. Expansion of trade among developing countries (paragraphs 3-7 of the Summary of Discussions (CPC/96) of the last meeting). At the last meeting it was suggested that in order to up-date and improve the schedules of concessions and with a view to strengthening the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries, participating countries might envisage implementing one or more of the following measures:

(i) Participating countries whose schedules of concessions contain fixed ad valorem or specific tariff rates might review the situation to ascertain whether in the light of the tariff rates currently in force the margins of preference negotiated originally are still in effect. If margins of preference are not in effect, preferential tariff rates might be adjusted in order to restore the value of the concessions.

(ii) Participating countries which have submitted additional lists of items might be invited to include these items in their respective schedules of concessions on an autonomous basis. These autonomous concessions might be withdrawn at any time without renegotiation.

(iii) Other participating countries might be invited to consider taking action to improve the product coverage and/or the existing margins of preference for the items currently included in their respective schedules of concessions.

(iv) Having regard to the procedures already agreed by the Committee, participating countries might carry out negotiations for the exchange of additional concessions.

(v) As a contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Uruguay Round, developing countries in a position to do so might, in the framework of the Protocol, liberalize the conditions of access for products of interest to other developing countries participating in the negotiations on the basis that such action would be recognized as a contribution to the overall objectives of the Uruguay Round.

The Committee took note of the comments and suggestions made and agreed that participating countries would reflect on the various approaches which might be pursued with a view to the expansion of trade among developing countries. At the request of the Committee, the secretariat has circulated a factual note summarizing developments relevant to the schedules of concessions of participating countries. The Committee also agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting. Members of the Committee may wish to review developments and exchange views on matters relevant to this agenda item.

2. Certification of origin. Additional information concerning certification of origin provided by Israel has been circulated in documents CPC/10/Addendum 31 and 32.

3. Other business.