

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

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## TARIFFS AND TRADE.

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Committee on Trade and Development

Sixty-Sixth Session

26 June 1989

### TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. The technical cooperation programme of the GATT secretariat in the context of the Uruguay Round was last reviewed by the Committee on Trade and Development at its Sixty-Fifth Session in October 1988. The Committee had before it, for this purpose, a note by the secretariat in document COM.TD/W/467 which gave an outline of the technical cooperation activities. The secretariat has since then continued to develop its activities in this area in accordance with the broad guidelines indicated to the Committee at its previous sessions. Thus, since the last review by the Committee, the secretariat has organized ten trade policy seminars and three regional seminars, two of the latter having been organized through voluntary financial contributions that were greatly appreciated. The secretariat has continued, in this intervening period, to brief delegations and visiting officials on developments in the negotiations and in the regular work of the GATT both informally and formally through briefing sessions. The secretariat has also been responding to the requests from developing countries for data and information, particularly in areas such as tropical products, and has been providing factual notes on negotiating issues.

2. As the secretariat pointed out in its note on technical cooperation at the Sixty-Fifth Session of the Committee, many developing countries have identified a growing need for trade policy seminars organized on a regional or sub-regional basis, which cannot be funded out of the secretariat's regular technical cooperation budget. As a result the secretariat has carried out informal consultations with a view to finding the most efficient means of meeting the needs of developing countries in this respect. Because of the time constraints involved, and in order to avoid additional bureaucratic difficulties, which are of concern to delegations, the secretariat has concluded that it should continue to seek additional voluntary funds from individual governments for the purpose of organizing regional or sub-regional seminars on an ad hoc basis rather than through the mechanism of a trust fund.

3. There are two other areas in which the secretariat has identified a rapidly increasing demand for technical assistance in developing countries: one relates to services and other new issues under examination in the Uruguay Round; the other to the establishment of the Integrated Data Base. The secretariat is currently examining how it can most effectively address the requirements for technical assistance for developing countries in these two areas.