

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

C/W/625

9 April 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL
16 May 1990

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Communication from the Chairman

I have received from the Director-General the attached proposal regarding the Outline Format for Country Reports for Least-Developed Countries to be submitted under the Trade Policy Review Mechanism. The proposal has been agreed by the Negotiating Group on the Functioning of the GATT System and forwarded to the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee.

I hereby submit it to the Council for appropriate action at its meeting on 16 May 1990, in the light of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (L/6490).

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The Council:

Recalling its Decision of 19 July 1989 (L/6552) on the Outline Format for Country Reports to be submitted under the Trade Policy Review Mechanism,

Recognizing that, in view of the stage of institutional development of the least-developed countries, it may be burdensome for them to adhere to the outline format, and that the impact of a least-developed contracting party's trade policies and practices on the multilateral trading system, and on international trade, is likely to be minimal,

Decides that:

(i) Although reports by least-developed contracting parties should follow the model of the outline format approved by the Council on 19 July 1989, data which concern only a small proportion of total trade, or which cannot be collected without undue special effort, may be omitted.

(ii) In the reviews, particular attention will be paid to the wider economic and developmental needs, policies and objectives of the least-developed contracting party concerned, as well as to its external trading environment and to problems faced by it in external markets or otherwise affecting its export performance.

(iii) The Secretariat shall offer technical assistance to each least-developed contracting party in preparing its Country Report.

This decision shall be reviewed in the light of the experience gained from its application.