

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development

Sixty-Eighth Session

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its sixty-seventh session held in November 1989, the Committee on Trade and Development reviewed the technical cooperation programme of the GATT secretariat on the basis of a note by the secretariat in document COM.TD/W/477.
2. A detailed report on technical assistance activities will be presented at the sixty-ninth session of the Committee. This note gives a brief account of the activities for the first half of 1990.
3. The demand from developing countries for technical assistance increased significantly with the Uruguay Round entering the last year of negotiations. The secretariat has responded to requests from delegations of developing countries by providing them with data and information required by them in the context of negotiations on tariffs, non-tariff measures, tropical products and natural resource-based products. Data and information was also provided, upon request, to assist delegations in their evaluation of negotiating proposals. Some developing country delegations sought the help of the secretariat by way of additional background information needed by them for bilateral consultations following the submission of proposals and requests.
4. Upon request of delegations, the secretariat has continued to prepare and provide factual background notes on specific issues in the negotiations.
5. The Technical Cooperation Division of the secretariat has organized briefing sessions, seminars and workshops on GATT and the Uruguay Round. Apart from briefing individual officials or delegations of developing countries, it organized a general briefing session on GATT and the Uruguay Round in March 1990, a short briefing session for least-developed countries in the first half of June 1990 and is organizing, with the financial assistance of Canada, a special briefing session in the last week of June for senior officials from capitals of some developing countries.
6. The secretariat has organized, or made available the services of its officials, for participation in some fourteen national seminars on the Uruguay Round and on the GATT during the first half of 1990. In addition four regional or sub-regional seminars and workshops, financed from

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voluntary contributions, have been organized during the same period. These were: ASEAN Workshop in Jakarta, regional seminar for Latin American countries in Buenos Aires, ESCAP workshop in Bangkok and regional seminar for African countries in Rabat, financed respectively by the Netherlands, Canada, Federal Republic of Germany and the EEC.

7. The Committee might wish to take note of the technical cooperation activities of the secretariat and to make suggestions on the additional types of technical assistance that developing countries might require in the remaining months of the Uruguay Round negotiations.