

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

CPC/111

15 October 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Fifty-Ninth Meeting
held on 26 September 1990

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries held its fifty-ninth meeting on 26 September 1990, under the Chairmanship of Mr. O. Gökce (Turkey).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/144 was adopted with the inclusion of an additional item concerning the expansion of trade among developing countries.

Certification of origin

3. The Committee took note of the information concerning certification of origin provided by Mexico and Israel which had been circulated in documents CPC/10/Addendum 40/Rev.1 and Addendum 41, respectively.

Annual Report

4. The Chairman said that the draft Seventeenth Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Committee on Trade and Development had been circulated in document CPC/W/146 and Addendum 1. Up to now only two participating countries had provided the necessary statistical data and it would be desirable that other participating countries submit their data as soon as possible. Several members stated that the statistical information required for the Annual Report would be submitted for circulation shortly.

5. Following the consideration of the text of the draft report, the Committee adopted the report circulated in document CPC/W/146 and Addendum 1 and agreed to invite those participating countries that have not yet done so to submit to the secretariat the statistical data and information required for the Annual Report as soon as possible.

Derestriction of documents

6. The Chairman referred to document CPC/W/145 which on the basis of the guidelines adopted by the Committee listed CPC/... and CPC/W/... documents which would appear to be eligible for derestriction. A member noted that

his country's revised schedule of concessions was also derestricted. The Committee agreed to derestrict the CPC/... and CPC/W/... documents mentioned in document CPC/W/145.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

7. A member noted that the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries had been established with the aim of promoting the expansion of trade among developing countries thus contributing to their economic development. The Protocol had been conceived as a dynamic and flexible preferential trading arrangement among developing countries. In his view, participating countries should make full use of the potential offered by this instrument. He recalled that over a period of time participating countries had been exploring ways and means to strengthen the operation of the Protocol and had sought to link the implementation of additional concessions to the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations in GATT. As the Uruguay Round was expected to come to a successful conclusion in the very near future his delegation felt that the participating countries should carry out an in-depth examination of the possibility of having participating countries implement their Uruguay Round concessions on an accelerated basis in favour of other participating countries within the framework of the Protocol. This approach could be applied with flexibility and might include individual adjustments as necessary. The advanced implementation of the Uruguay Round concessions among participating countries could be expected to provide additional impetus to the Protocol. He suggested that this proposal be taken up at the next meeting of the Committee under the item of expansion of trade among developing countries. Several members of the Committee said that the proposal deserved serious and timely consideration. In supporting the inclusion of this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee, these members stressed that the next meeting of the Committee should take place shortly after the conclusion of the Round. Noting that the proposal was worth exploring further, a member said that in his view its implementation would contribute to the updating of the schedules of concessions and help to solve the problem of the erosion of certain concessions. The Committee agreed to examine the question of the expansion of trade among developing countries and to consider the proposal concerning advanced implementation of concessions at its next meeting.

Rotation of officers

8. The Chairman thanked members for their cooperation and assistance in carrying out the activities of the Committee. He said that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, the Chairmanship for the forthcoming period will be assumed by the representative of Uruguay Mr. J.P. Buda, and the Vice-Chairmanship by the representative of Yugoslavia.

Next meeting

9. The Chairman indicated that the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed in consultation with delegations and the secretariat in accordance with usual practice.