

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/156

12 March 1992

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements among Developing
Countries Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE ON PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Meeting to be held on 23 March 1992

The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries will hold its sixty-second meeting on 23 March 1992, at 10.30 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. Schedule of concessions

(a) The preferential margins of a significant part of concessions granted under the Protocol have been or will be eroded by the reduction of m.f.n. duties resulting from the multilateral trade negotiations and autonomous tariff measures. So far two countries have taken remedial actions on a unilateral basis.

At the previous meeting of the Committee held in October 1991 a number of members expressed concern that fixed-rate preferential concessions had lost their value due to changes in the tariff situation over time and stated that there was need for exploring possible solutions to the problem. Taking note of the suggestions and comments made, the Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a note, including if appropriate a draft decision or recommendation, for its consideration at the next meeting.

Secretariat note CPC/W/154 entitled "Erosion of Certain Forms of Preferential Concessions" has been circulated, including a draft recommendation.

At the previous meeting the Committee agreed to invite those participating countries whose preferential concessions had been eroded by m.f.n. tariff reductions to take remedial actions if they had not yet done so. These actions might be taken on autonomous and provisional bases pending any new negotiations which might be agreed upon in the future.

The members concerned will be invited to inform the Committee with regard to the action they envisage taking in response to the invitation.

(b) Following the transposition of their schedules into the Harmonized System, some participating countries have submitted their revised schedules of concessions under the Protocol. However, several others having adopted the HS Nomenclature for their tariff schedules have not yet done so. Document CPC/W/150 circulated in September 1991 shows the status of the transposition of schedules of concessions into the Harmonized System.

(c) At its previous meeting the Committee had an initial discussion of the suggestion that as a post-Uruguay Round activity of the GATT for developing countries, new negotiations under the Protocol be launched having regard to the new tariff situation resulting from the Uruguay Round or other changes in national tariffs, and agreed to revert to this suggestion at its next meeting in the light of developments in the Uruguay Round.

2. Expansion of trade among developing countries

At its previous meeting the Committee considered the proposal concerning the advanced implementation of Uruguay Round concessions among participating countries, and requested the secretariat to prepare a note which would help the Committee to have a clearer idea of the implications of the proposal. Secretariat note CPC/W/155 entitled "Advance Implementation of Uruguay Round Concessions among Participating Countries" has been circulated.

3. Certification of origin

Additional information concerning certification of origin provided by Romania has been circulated in document CPC/10/Add.46.

4. Other business