

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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### TRADE AND TARIFF REGIME OF TURKMENISTAN

The following communication was received on 28 November 1992 from the National Customs Administration of Turkmenistan.

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The information which the National Customs Administration of Turkmenistan submits herewith concerns the changes that have been made in Turkmenistan's trade and tariff régime.

#### INFORMATION

##### on changes in Turkmenistan's trade and tariff régime

The laws and other legislative provisions, either in force or under consideration, relating to Turkmenistan's trade and customs tariff provide for the following:

- mutually advantageous co-operation with all States, foreign, natural or legal persons, and international organizations;
- equality of rights among parties;
- non-interference in the internal affairs of the partners;
- performance of the obligations mutually contracted under agreements with other States or international organizations;
- other universally recognized international conventions, provisions and rules.

The legal régime governing external economic relations provides for:

- registration of persons engaged in foreign economic activities;
- a procedure governing exports and imports of goods and services (including labour);

- customs declaration of goods;
- measures for the effective regulation of foreign economic activities.

This régime covers all aspects of foreign economic activities, including direct relations established in the fields of production, science and technology and culture, as well as cross-border trade and barter or countertrade operations; and it also covers all parties to such transactions.

The intervention of State administrative bodies or of civil servants in the foreign transactions of economic agents is forbidden.

State bodies or civil servants cannot restrict the rights of persons engaged in foreign economic activities, except as provided for by law. If they cause injury to such persons, they shall be liable for compensation for the damage caused.

In practice, the Turkmenistan Customs Administration acts pursuant to the legislative provisions of the former USSR. Many laws are under consideration, and some of them are in the process of adoption; when they have been adopted, further information will be submitted to GATT.

The laws currently in force on the territory of Turkmenistan include the Law on foreign investment in Turkmenistan, Law on business activity in Turkmenistan, Law on enterprises in Turkmenistan, and Law on foreign economic activities.