

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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DE FACTO APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Report by the Director-General

On 11 November 1967 the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a Recommendation (15S/64) that contracting parties should continue to apply de facto the General Agreement in their relations with each territory which acquired full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and in respect of which a contracting party had accepted the Agreement, provided such territories continued to apply de facto the Agreement to its trade with the contracting parties.¹ The Recommendation does not have a time-limit. The Director-General is required to submit a report on its application after three years. Earlier reports have been submitted to the Council in November 1970 (L/3457), November 1973 (L/3948), October 1976 (L/4427), October 1979 (L/4846 and Add.1), July 1982 (L/5345), July 1985 (L/5823), June 1988 (L/6349) and June 1991 (L/6866).

The Recommendation is at present applicable in respect of the following countries:

	<u>Date of independence</u>
Cambodia	9 November 1953
Algeria	3 July 1962
Yemen	30 November 1967
Equatorial Guinea	12 October 1968
Tonga	5 June 1970
Bahamas	10 July 1973
Saô Tomé and Príncipe	12 July 1975
Papua New Guinea	16 September 1975
Seychelles	29 June 1976
Djibouti	27 June 1977
Solomon Islands	7 July 1978
Tuvalu	1 October 1978
Kiribati	12 July 1979

Upon their independence, letters were addressed to the governments concerned advising them that the Recommendation is applicable to their trade relations with the contracting parties and seeking their confirmation that they will reciprocate in applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis.

The governments are regularly kept informed about GATT activities and receive all GATT documents and publications. They are also invited to be represented by observers at the annual sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

¹See Secretariat Note on de facto application of the General Agreement (C/130).