

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

W.20/20

13 November 1962

Limited Distribution

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Twentieth Session

## NEWLY-INDEPENDENT STATES

### Application of the General Agreement to Certain Newly-Independent States in Africa

#### Note by the Executive Secretary

With reference to item 28 on the agenda for the twentieth session, it has been reported to the secretariat that some of the new French-speaking States in Africa will be unable to take decision, within the time-limits laid down by the Recommendations of 18 November 1960 and 9 December 1961, on the question of accession to the General Agreement. In these circumstances, the CONTRACTING PARTIES may wish to grant a further extension and to review the whole situation at their autumn session in 1963. In that event the following draft decision may facilitate consideration of this matter.

#### (Draft Decision)

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES recommended on 18 November 1960 that contracting parties should continue to apply de facto the General Agreement in their relations with any territory which acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of other matters provided for in the General Agreement for a period of two years from the date on which such autonomy is acquired, provided that the State in question continues to apply de facto the Agreement to them,

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES further recommended on 9 December 1961 that contracting parties should continue to act upon the Recommendation of 18 November 1960 for a further period of one year with respect to any State to which the said Recommendation is applicable and which before the expiry of its two-year period requests an extension of the time-limit;

Noting that the Governments of Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta have each requested an extension of the time-limit applicable to it, that the extended time-limits for these countries will expire on various dates during 1963, and that these States are still engaged in an examination of their future commercial policy including their relations with the General Agreement which may not have been completed before the autumn of 1963, and

Considering that it is desirable to provide further time for these States to decide upon their future commercial policy and that a uniform time-limit for the expiry of the Recommendations of 9 December 1961 in respect of these States would

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facilitate the eventual consideration of these matters by the States and by the CONTRACTING PARTIES;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

Recommend that contracting parties should continue to act upon the Recommendation of 18 November 1960 with respect to the States enumerated above until the close of the last ordinary session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1963, provided that these States continue to apply de facto the Agreement to them, and

Decide to review the status of the aforementioned territories at their last ordinary session in 1963.