

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MINISTERIAL MEETING  
Tokyo, 12-14 September 1973

## CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN

We have now come to the end of the discussion of the important subject that has been before us - the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

You now have on your desks a final text of the declaration without brackets.

A great measure of support for this Declaration has been expressed by delegations in the course of their statements and many representatives have stated that their governments have already decided to participate in the negotiations.

The Declaration is expressed in broad terms and therefore opens the way for advancing further work along lines expressed by delegations at this Conference. It of course also allows delegations to pursue specific points, from their own perspective, in the course of the work of the Trade Negotiations Committee. All the statements made here will be duly recorded and will constitute a part of the official record of this meeting so that, in view of the work of the Trade Negotiations Committee, we may all take note of the particular positions expressed.

Having this in mind, it is my conclusion that the Declaration is approved by this meeting of Ministers. Therefore, we have now decided to enter into comprehensive multilateral negotiations in the framework of GATT.

On the basis of consultations that have been held with Delegations on the subject, the TNC, which we have established, will commence its work on 24 October 1973, and it is the intention of governments to conclude the negotiations by the end of 1975.

There have been discussions regarding appropriate arrangements for the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to follow the developments in the multilateral trade negotiations. It has been agreed that the Director-General of GATT, on a continuing basis, will keep the Secretary-General informed on developments in the multilateral trade negotiations in such a manner as to facilitate the Secretary-General of UNCTAD assisting the developing countries.

The Trade Negotiations Committee could decide to invite the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to attend its meetings, as appropriate.

Before concluding I should like to say a few words of congratulations about the fact that the present meeting has succeeded in fulfilling its historic rôle of formally launching a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. This success is due to the constructive and co-operative attitude which all the high-ranking delegates here gathered have continuously demonstrated during this meeting and as Chairman I wish to express my sincere gratitude to them. I also wish to warmly thank Director-General Long and all members of the GATT secretariat who have supported the meeting with their usual effective work, regardless of the fact that they have been working so far away from their headquarters in Geneva. We cannot overlook the important rôle played by the interpreters and all others who have been managing the meeting from behind the scenes.

The successful conclusion of this meeting, thanks to the active co-operation of so many people, is a matter of satisfaction also to the host country and I hold the firm belief that our success signifies extremely bright prospects for the peoples of the entire world.

A spirit of co-operation was demonstrated at this meeting; perhaps we could call this the spirit of Tokyo - and I express the hope that the countries of the world, basing themselves on this spirit of Tokyo, will join hands to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations and thus achieve our original purpose; the development of the world economy as a whole.

Finally, to those who have come to this conference from across the seas, I wish them a peaceful journey back home and "bon voyage".

I now declare the closure of the meeting.