

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Trade Negotiations Committee of  
Developing Countries

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## VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL ON THE NEGOTIATIONS

The following communication has been received from the Brazilian permanent delegation.

1. With reference to the negotiations among developing countries for the expansion of their mutual trade relations, I have the honour to submit to you the following remarks.
2. First of all, I wish to reaffirm that Brazil is deeply interested in these negotiations, as it has been said by the Brazilian delegates at many opportunities since the start of the negotiations.
3. As you are aware, on a few occasions during TN(LDC) meetings, some delegations, including the Brazilian delegation, have expressed the point of view that the absence of accepted basic rules for the negotiations and for the application of their eventual results has acted as an anti-negotiating factor, which has in fact hindered the progress of the negotiations.
4. As far as they are concerned, the proper Brazilian authorities are finding it difficult to engage in multilateral trade negotiations without a previous definition of the nature and range of the commitments which the Government may be called to undertake. In fact, besides its important regional obligations, Brazil has to take into account as well the orderly development of its foreign trade in other areas.
5. In these circumstances, my Government considers it necessary to state, in advance, the conditions under which it is willing to participate in these negotiations. They are, among others which may be brought forward later on:
  - (a) Preferential basis, that is, the eventual advantages of the negotiations should be restricted to the countries which, at the end, have granted effective tariff and/or non-tariff concessions in the context of the negotiations. (If need be, the principle of GATT Article XXXV should be subsidiarily applied, mutatis mutandis.)
  - (b) The concessions should be granted for an initial period of five years.

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(c) There should be a clear definition of the participating countries, in order to enable an adequate evaluation of the possible effects of the requests and offers.

(d) Arrangement should be made to start the negotiations properly by the submission of specific lists of requests and of offers.

(e) Adoption of the system of national lists, each one embodying the respective concessions granted by a country.

(f) Formalization of the final commitments, including the lists of concessions, through a protocol, in order to give them legal validity.

6. In these conditions, may I suggest that the TN(LDC) be convened as soon as possible, in order to establish the basic principles for the negotiations. The Brazilian contribution to these principles will be as indicated above.