

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### Statement Made by the Nordic Countries at the Group "Tariffs" Meeting, July 1976

One aspect regarding developing countries that has been discussed in the Group concerns the elaboration of special procedures in order to identify concrete interests of developing countries.

The Nordic countries have an open mind as to the different proposals that have been made regarding special procedures. We believe that a combination of various suggestions is possible and that the important thing is to start work on assembling necessary information without delay on the basis of work carried out by the secretariat or through notifications or probably by both methods.

Furthermore as you noted at the end of our last meeting, important progress was made in the area of special and more favourable treatment in the tariff field that might be accorded to exports from developing countries. Several developed and developing countries made specific suggestions in this respect. It is the view of the Nordic countries that these various suggestions are not conflicting but could rather be considered as complementary elements which could be combined to a global agreement on principles for differentiated and more favourable treatment of developing countries.

Having examined the various suggestions that have been put forward we believe that such a comprehensive agreement could contain the following general principles for differentiated and more favourable treatment.

These principles should guide the elaboration and application of a negotiated agreement in the tariff field in respect of developing countries. The desirability of prior agreement on certain principles or measures for special and more favourable treatment for imports from developing countries has been underlined by the developing countries in this group. This notion is also embodied in the proposal put forward by the Communities at our last meeting. The Nordic countries would like at this stage to

indicate some principles that we consider feasible in this context. Some of these elements are contained in the proposal put forward by the Communities at our last meeting.

- Advance implementation of tariff cuts.
- Deeper than formula cuts for certain products.
- Measures for the improvement of the Generalized Systems of Preferences in industrialized countries.
- Opening of new tariff sub-headings in certain cases.
- The GSP systems should be prolonged beyond their present duration.
- As regards the application of the general formula, contributions by developing countries shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Tokyo Declaration.
- Agreement on special measures should be reached not later than the time of choice of the general tariff cutting formula.

The Nordic countries are, of course, open to suggestions for additional elements to a list of principles regarding differentiated treatment of this nature. It was widely recognized at our last meeting that principles regarding differentiated treatment established in advance of concrete knowledge regarding the general formula cannot all be expected to be applied simultaneously to the same products. The list will by necessity constitute guiding principles in order to elaborate a negotiated result providing additional benefits for developing countries.