

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations  
Group "Tropical Products"

## PROCEDURES FOR TRADITIONAL ITEM-BY-ITEM NEGOTIATIONS

### Note by the Secretariat

The following are the points made by the acting Chairman of the Group "Non-tariff Measures" at the meeting of the Group last week under the agenda item relating to procedures for negotiations on non-tariff measures not dealt with multilaterally. As requested, the secretariat is preparing a fuller note for the Group "Non-tariff Measures" which will also set out the points made in its discussion of this item.

Procedures based on those used in traditional item-by-item negotiations, suitably adapted to the present circumstances, would provide:

- (1) the first stage would be the presentation of specific requests, which could be made by any individual participant or group of participants;
- (2) as suggested at the meeting, specific requests could be made on an individual measure even though the category to which the measure belonged was being dealt with multilaterally;
- (3) the requests would specify -
  - (a) the specific measure which is the subject of the request, and
  - (b) the specific action which the country maintaining the measure is requested to take;
- (4) this Group would establish a date for the tabling of these specific requests on the understanding that it would be open to participants to make additional requests subsequently;
- (5) copies of these requests would be submitted to the secretariat which would circulate them simultaneously to all participants in the negotiations;
- (6) other participants would be free to join in a request, provided that both the participant who made the request and the participant to which the request is made, agree. If they do not agree, the other participant would be free to pursue its request independently;

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- (7) this Group would review the status of requests shortly after their circulation with a view, inter alia, to agreeing on a date for the tabling of specific offers;
- (8) this Group would review progress in the negotiations from time to time and, in particular, progress in the negotiations between developed and developing countries, and take any action that might help to achieve the objectives of the negotiations; and
- (9) this Group would report periodically to the Trade Negotiations Committee.