

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Tropical Products"

#### DRAFT SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZATION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

The following points have been drawn up in the light of the Group's discussion on 11 March 1975 in connexion with the organization of the negotiations on tropical products.

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- (i) Individual participants or groups of participants would be invited to submit lists of initial requests to countries in whose markets they have an interest as exporters of tropical products indicating in specific terms the tariff items and the products for which they would wish to secure concessions and the nature of the concession or concessions relating to obstacles to trade being sought. Participating countries would submit their initial requests for concessions to the countries concerned by 16 May 1975, it being understood that request lists or requests for additional concessions may be submitted as the negotiations proceed. To facilitate the submission of requests a suggested pro-forma would be made available by the secretariat.
- (ii) Informal contacts between interested countries could take place prior to the submission of request lists.
- (iii) Copies of the request lists would be filed with the secretariat which would circulate such lists to all participants in the negotiations.

(iv) 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. Arrangements would be made for appropriate consultations with respect to the request lists both among exporting countries and between the importing and exporting countries concerned.

(v) The Group would review the status of requests shortly after their circulation and would consider arrangements for the presentation and circulation of initial offers to participants within a reasonable period of time after the submission of requests and the initiation of the consultations referred to in (iv) above. [In this respect, it was recognized that every effort would be made by those participating countries to which requests for concessions are addressed to present their initial offers by [the earliest possible date] [the end of July 1975] [mid-August 1975].]

(vi) Following the presentation of requests, any questions as to how special and priority treatment may be ensured in this sector would be examined in the Group.

(vii) The Group would keep under review the progress made in the negotiations on tropical products and take such action as is needed to achieve the objectives of the negotiations. The Group would report periodically to the Trade Negotiations Committee.

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(i) The Group agreed that negotiations on tropical products would be undertaken without prejudice as to what may or may not be considered a tropical product. It was also agreed that full account would be taken of the relevant provisions of the Tokyo Declaration including the principle of non-reciprocity as reflected in paragraph 5 of the Declaration, as well as the solutions already proposed during the technical and analytical work carried out in Group 3(f).

(ii) It was noted that the secretariat would continue to update the background information dealing with commercial policy measures and prices prepared for Group 3(f) including up-to-date information on GSP rates and recent agreements affecting tropical products and make it available to delegations. Work would proceed on points relevant to the trade negotiations which were drawn to the attention of Group 3(f).

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It was noted that the action required of the Group under point (vii) of section 1 above and the effective organization of the negotiations in this sector would need to provide for the following points:

(i) Review and examination of questions relating, inter alia, to non-tariff measures which are found not to lend themselves to negotiations on a product-by-product basis and which may need to be taken up in the context of solutions which might be worked out in regard to such measures on a multilateral basis in other areas of the negotiations.

(ii) The Group would continue to bear in mind the inter-connexion between negotiations on tropical products and those on other products. To the extent necessary, activities on tropical products will be co-ordinated with points of common interest being taken up in other groups. The negotiations in this sector would take account of progress in other areas of the negotiations.

(iii) (Examination by the Group, as appropriate, of problems within its purview which appear to require multilateral action with a view to working out appropriate arrangements and solutions either within the Group or elsewhere.)

(The Group would examine the possibility of working out appropriate stabilization arrangements for commodities for which such arrangements are not being negotiated elsewhere.)

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It was further noted that, on the basis of the reports to be submitted to the TNC by the Group, the TNC may wish to consider as appropriate any further action that may be required taking into account, inter alia, developments in the negotiations as a whole, and the desirability of concluding negotiations in as broad an area as possible with respect to tropical products (at the earliest possible date) (by the end of 1975) having regard to the priority given to this sector in the Tokyo Declaration.