

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1976

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met from 8-12 November 1976.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
3. The Sub-Group agreed to invite the Central Secretariat of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Central Office of its sister organization the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to attend this session of the Sub-Group in an expert capacity. It was pointed out that these two international organizations were in a unique situation and that the decision would not create a precedent; it was in fact recalled that the Sub-Group is using definitions drawn up by ISO and that these organizations were drawing up international standards which would form a basis on which signatories would implement the Code. It was stressed that the central secretariats of the two organizations would, of course, strictly observe the rules governing the use of restricted documents.
4. The Sub-Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/69).
5. The Sub-Group had a detailed discussion of the proposals relating to the Operative Provisions of the Draft Standards Code, including an extensive discussion of proposals designed to deal with problems faced by developing countries. It reached agreement on a number of the proposals before it and decided that these points should be incorporated in the text of the Draft Code.<sup>1</sup> It also requested the secretariat to revise the document setting out the proposals before the Sub-Group in the light of its discussions at the meeting.<sup>2</sup> It invited delegations which had undertaken to reformulate their proposals in the light of the discussions at the present meeting, and which were in a position to do so, to supply their texts to the secretariat by 15 December 1976.

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<sup>1</sup>To be issued as MTN/NTM/W/71.

<sup>2</sup>To be issued as MTN/NTM/W/72.

6. The Sub-Group had a short discussion of questions relating to the terms to be used in the Draft Standards Code. It thanked Mr. K. Bergholm (Finland) for the paper circulated in response to the request which it had made at its last meeting (MTN/NTM/W/70). It requested Mr. Bergholm to continue his work on this subject and in particular to prepare a further paper on the terms which need to be defined for the purposes of the Draft Code and on the differences between the Hypothesis B definitions and the ISO/ECE definitions.

7. The Sub-Group agreed to request the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" to fix the date of its next meeting.