

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1977

Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 7-9 November 1977.
2. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer. It noted the communications received from the Chairmen of other Groups and Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/123).
3. At the end of the meeting, the Chairman made the following summing-up of the discussions on his own responsibility.
4. In line with the agreement reached at its previous meeting, the Sub-Group moved to a more concrete stage in the examination and negotiation of specific issues in the area of government procurement. To assist it in its work, the Sub-Group had before it in documents MTN/NTM/W/117, MTN/NTM/W/118 and MTN/NTM/W/121, draft provisions covering certain areas of a code on government procurement. In the course of a preliminary examination of these drafts, the relevant delegations elaborated on the background to them and in response to questions and comments provided explanations on specific issues. Some members of the Sub-Group offered preliminary comments on issues not specifically covered by the drafts before them. The Sub-Group also discussed in some detail a number of points relating to the possibilities of differential treatment for developing countries.
5. With regard to the draft provisions so far presented, it was noted that the sponsors of them would consider the possibility of presenting a composite text which would take into account comments and suggestions made in the course of the meeting and which would help to facilitate the negotiation of a code on government procurement. The intention of some delegations to submit additional draft provisions covering as broad an area as possible of government procurement and including further proposals for special and differential treatment for developing countries was also noted. The Sub-Group agreed that bilateral and plurilateral consultations between interested delegations should be continued and intensified with a view to moving the work forward as rapidly as possible. The Sub-Group noted that the draft provisions already on the table and those to be presented would not prejudice the negotiating position of any delegation in any area of the negotiations on government procurement nor would they prejudice the possibility of submitting additional proposals as the negotiations proceed.

6. In turning to its future work programme, the Sub-Group recalled the agreement reached in the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" to the effect that the objective should be the setting out, by the end of the year, of key issues needing further negotiation in general codes. With this end in view, the Sub-Group agreed to invite the secretariat to put together, in consultation with delegations, a document containing draft provisions on government procurement, on the basis of the drafts already on the table and those to be presented in the coming weeks. It was suggested that those delegations intending to submit composite or additional proposals should do so by the end of November, if possible.

7. The Sub-Group agreed that at its next meeting it would focus its attention on the draft elements contained in the document to be put together by the secretariat, and any additional points delegations may wish to take up at that meeting.

8. Reference was also made to GATT/AIR/1363 inviting delegations to provide certain information on their countries' government procurement policies. In this connexion, the Sub-Group welcomed the additional information provided in document MTN/NTM/W/99 and its addendum and the information in MTN/NTM/W/115 and urged those participating countries not having made such information available so far, to do so as quickly as possible.

9. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.