

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MTN/NTM/W/24
13 October 1975
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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

MEETING OF OCTOBER 1975

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Sub-Group met on 3 October 1975 to take stock of the situation and to discuss the next steps in its work.

Marks of origin

2. The Sub-Group noted the brief discussion which had taken place at its last meeting on this subject (MTN/NTM/3, paragraph 14).

3. Some delegations suggested that, as a first step, governments might be asked to provide information in writing on:

- (a) to what extent marks of origin were required;
- (b) the reasons for these requirements; and
- (c) any difficulties that they might have in abolishing these.

4. Some other delegations said that marking was already covered in the draft standards code and suggested that either the Sub-Group should defer consideration of other aspects of the marks of origin question, as it already had a lot of work to do, or refer the matter of marks of origin to the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" with the suggestion that it might more appropriately be dealt with in the Sub-Group "Customs Matters".

5. Yet other delegations said that they intended to submit suggestions as to how marks of origin should be dealt with in the negotiations.

6. The Sub-Group agreed to invite delegations to submit proposals on this matter in writing and to revert to the question at its next meeting on the basis of the proposals received.

Standards and packaging and labelling

7. The Sub-Group noted that a meeting at technical level had been held from 23 September to 3 October 1975 and that a note would be issued by the secretariat summarizing the suggestions made at the meeting concerning the text of the proposed GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade (annexed to MTN/NTM/W/5).¹

8. Some representatives said that particular attention should be paid to the provisions in the text which were designed to meet the special needs of developing countries and stressed the importance which they attached to the establishment of an information network and of a clearing house for information on the activities of international bodies.

9. One representative suggested that certain specific aspects of packaging and labelling should be spelled out in the Code. These suggestions are reproduced in document MTN/NTM/W/25.

10. The secretariat made a short summary of the data which was readily available on the principal kinds of standards-making bodies and quality assurance systems in the countries participating in the Sub-Group, as requested at the last meeting (MTN/NTM/3, paragraph 11).

11. The Sub-Group agreed that at its next meeting it should examine the points identified at technical level meeting on standards and packaging and labelling on the basis of the secretariat note on the meeting and any other points raised before the meeting, with a view to reaching agreement on as many of these as possible.

Date of the next meeting

12. The Sub-Group agreed that its next meeting should start on 27 January 1976 and that it might be expected to last for a period of two weeks.

¹This document is being issued as MTN/NTM/W/25.