

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Sub-Committee on Trade of  
Least-Developed Countries  
18-19 October 1984

## DRAFT NOTE ON PROCEEDINGS OF SIXTH MEETING

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries was held on 18 October 1984, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador M. Huslid (Norway).
2. The Chairman stated that this session of the Sub-Committee, like the previous session, would combine its regular programme with ad hoc consultations with particular least-developed countries. At this session, consultations were to have been held between Tanzania and the Central African Republic and their respective trading partners. The Chairman informed the Committee that owing to certain financial difficulties, the Central African Republic was not in a position to consult at this session, and had requested that its consultations be postponed to a future occasion. The Chairman proposed that in accordance with the provisional agenda, the first part of the meeting be devoted to the consultations with Tanzania. After that the Sub-Committee would consider the remaining items on its agenda, namely (a) a review of developments in international trade, (b) the review of trade measures in favour of least-developed countries (c) identification of continuing barriers to the exports of least-developed countries, (d) secretarial technical assistance, (e) other matters.
3. The provisional agenda was duly adopted.
  - I. Agenda item (i): Ad hoc consultations  
between Tanzania and its trading partners
4. The Chairman recalled that at its forty-ninth session, the Committee on Trade and Development accepted a proposal that the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries should (a) monitor the implementation of those aspects of the Ministerial Declaration which concern the least-developed countries, and (b) hold consultations between interested

least-developed countries and their respective trading partners on issues related to their development and export interests including the examination of barriers to their trade and any other relevant commercial policy matters. The Chairman stressed that the proposal to organize the ad hoc consultations stemmed from paragraph 3(g) of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration which asked the contracting parties to "give more emphasis to the discussion and examination of policy issues of interest to least-developed countries in the context of further efforts to liberalize trade". He added that the Sub-Committee, at its meeting in May 1983, agreed to these proposals and subsequently established a new programme of work which included the organization of ad hoc consultations between individual least-developed countries and their trading partners. He noted that Bangladesh had been the first country to request a consultation, which had taken place in November 1983. He also noted that Bangladesh had, as part of a follow-up to its consultations, presented a new submission to the Sub-Committee in document COM.TD/LLDC/W/10/Rev.1, which would be considered by the Sub-Committee following the consultation with Tanzania.

5. The Chairman noted that a background document on Tanzania prepared by the secretariat as well as a preliminary submission by the Government of Tanzania had been circulated as documents COM.TD/LLDC/W/14 and Add.1 and COM.TD/LLDC/W/18 and Add.1 respectively.

6. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman said that the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries had a very important role in GATT in view of its concern with problems of the least-developed countries, which were facing an extremely difficult situation.

7. In addressing the problems of the least-developed countries in the context of these consultations, the Chairman expressed the view that it was necessary to go beyond a simple consideration of their trade problems in a restricted sense. The need for this was borne out even by a cursory examination of the situation facing the least-developed countries. When the concept of the least-developed countries was defined in 1971, on the basis of a set of criteria relating to per capita incomes, the structure of exports, and the level of literacy, only twenty-five countries fall within this category. By contrast, that number had now risen to thirty-six, and

what was particularly worrying was that far from catching up with other countries, these countries had gradually lost ground over the last few years. Many of these countries seemed to face a vicious circle of constraints, with a combination of continued poverty and rapid population growth leading to stagnation or even regression. In this connection, it was instructive to note that in 1970, the share of the least-developed countries in total world exports was 0.8 per cent, and by 1980, this figure had fallen to about 0.4 per cent.

8. The Chairman expressed the view that in the light of these unfavourable trends, the international community had not done enough to address these problems. Although it was possible to identify many examples of good projects and programmes, financial transfers from the developed countries to the least-developed countries, which had risen quite substantially in the 1970s, had stagnated in the 1980s. Whilst certain organizations and conferences had produced impressive plans of action in favour of the least-developed countries, these had far too often remained verbal declarations lacking in practical implementation. The Chairman observed that the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least-developed countries had been adopted in 1981 and would be subject to a mid-term review next year. He expressed pessimism in regard to the conclusions that this mid-term review would reach in regard to progress made so far.

9. The Chairman noted that in the GATT context, the contracting parties had gradually become more aware of the problems of the least-developed countries, and this was reflected in the wording of various texts and decisions. The most significant reference to the least-developed countries was to be found in the Enabling Clause, where paragraph 2(d) allows for special treatment of the least-developed among the developing countries in the context of any general or specific measures taken in favour of developing countries. Other paragraphs in that decision also referred to the special difficulties of the least-developed countries and the need to take special account of these difficulties. The language of the Ministerial Declaration of November 1982 was even stronger, calling for contracting parties to undertake, individually and jointly, action to ensure special treatment for the least-developed countries. The question

remained, however, as how best to give practical effect to these decisions and expressed intentions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Whilst the possibilities open to contracting parties clearly turned on the provision of special and differential treatment, it was for consideration whether, in the light of the fact that the least-developed countries were lagging more and more behind, there was not scope for according additional facilities and advantages to these countries as part of the accepted rules. In this connection, the Chairman noted that the differential treatment provided for in paragraph 2 of the Enabling Clause related to tariffs and non-tariff measures governed by the codes. Paragraph 3(c) of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration also called for the elimination or reduction of non-tariff measures affecting products of particular interest to least-developed countries. If any other more favourable treatment were to be given to developing countries and to least-developed countries in particular, recourse could be had to footnote 2 to paragraph 2 of the Enabling Clause, which opens up the possibility of a waiver or a special decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Chairman expressed the view that good arguments could be put forward to the effect that the least-developed countries be given special facilities and concessions within existing rules for quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures falling outside the negotiated codes. This would be parallel to what was already accepted in the field of tariffs. He said that this would not mean introducing a new principle, but rather would amount to developing and extending a concept which was already accepted.

10. The Chairman said that while he recognized that these ideas might be somewhat controversial or might at least call for comments from contracting parties, the particularly serious situation and dismal prospects for the least-developed countries justified a fresh consideration of ways and means to improve the international framework for these countries. In his view, it was the role of the Sub-Committee to be instrumental in presenting such ideas and proposals to other organs of the GATT, and in particular to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. During their interventions, several delegations expressed their interest in the Chairman's proposals and said that they warranted further examination.

11. The representative of the World Bank referred to a recent World Bank Report on Sub-Saharan Africa, which contained proposals for a joint programme of action aimed at ensuring sustained development in that region.

He noted that many aspects of the development process analyzed in the report were of particular relevance to the least-developed countries. He also noted that the starting point for any efforts towards the rehabilitation and continued development of these countries was the formulation of national plans and programmes which aimed at the full utilization of new and existing resources. Whilst the situation of the least-developed countries implied that external resources would inevitably be required, optimal use of these resources required that they must be used in a manner which was supportive of national programmes and priorities. The representative of the World Bank noted that the existing level of external concessional financing was insufficient to meet all the essential investment requirements of all the least-developed countries. The World Bank Report on Sub-Saharan Africa stressed the need for additional resources and noted that these should be maintained at their 1980-1982 levels in real terms if there was to be any prospect of enabling these countries to undertake their development programmes and pursue required policy reforms. He noted that in specific terms additional commitments were required of about US\$2 billion each year, in order to cover the short-fall in the current funding available to the International Development Association. He noted that Australia had already agreed to make an additional contribution, and that other members of the World Bank were also considering this possibility.

12. Referring to the 1984 World Development Report, the representative of the World Bank said that the report indicated that Tanzania had experienced falling export earnings in the last two years. Import volumes had also declined sharply over the same period, and this had resulted in severe shortages of essential imports, which in turn had had adverse consequences for Tanzania's growth prospects. He noted that prospects for export expansion in the least-developed countries were slim for the next decade and that there was little prospect of significant improvements in the prices of their major exports. He observed that the diversification of the export base was a formidable task, particularly for the least-developed countries, and emphasized the need for additional external financing in order to assist this process and to enable these countries to undertake needed policy reforms.

13. The representative of the FAO noted that his organization had already provided assistance in the preparatory phase of the consultations with

Bangladesh and Tanzania and expressed the hope that this collaboration would be built up on for all future consultations in the Sub-Committee. In regard to FAO assistance to the least-developed countries, he pointed out that a large proportion of technical assistance in agriculture, around 65 to 70 per cent, had been aimed directly at increasing food production. He noted that the least-developed countries had benefited increasingly under all FAO supported programmes. He said that during 1983 a total of US\$330 million had been approved for some 650 new projects, project revisions and new allocations for continuing projects. Out of this, the share for the least-development countries was 250 projects amounting to approximately US\$160 million. The representative of the FAO noted that all FAO's assistance programmes to the least-developed countries, both at national and regional levels, had implications for the promotion of food self-sufficiency. Most of the African projects, for example, had been designed to enhance the capacity of the production base by improving soil fertility, control of desertification, irrigation and so on. The project proposals had also related to the protection and improvement of livestock through pest control and to the prevention of post-harvest losses. In addition, several proposals had addressed the development of food processing technology, the improvement of nutrition and food quality, and the establishment of an African Commodity Intelligence Service.

14. In relation to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least-developed countries, FAO had through its Office for Special Relief Operations, been able to respond effectively to emergencies in the agricultural sector. These operations were concentrated on the immediate rehabilitation of agricultural products, basic food crops, livestock protection, and preparedness/post-emergency measures. An FAO/WFP Special Task Force on the Food and Agricultural Situation in African Countries affected by calamities had also significantly widened the role of the Office for Special Relief Operations in the monitoring and review of exceptional requirements for the agricultural and livestock sectors. In regard to emergency food requirements, the FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System worked closely with the World Food Programme in assessing the output of food crops in countries with potential food shortages. Finally, the representative of the FAO referred to efforts being made by his organization to increase food crop production and raise farmers' incomes through the effective use of fertilizers.

15. The representative of UNCTAD noted that exports accounted for a modest share of the GDP for least-developed countries, and financed only about half their imports. Given the well-known positive relationship between export performance and economic growth, the lack of a dynamic export sector may have been crucial in determining the poor economic performance of the least-developed countries. Many of the reasons for poor export performance on the part of the least-developed countries fell outside the scope of the Sub-Committee. He noted in particular that in the agricultural sector, which was a major source of exports from most of the least-developed countries, there had been persistent drought, particularly in Africa, and rapid population growth, which had in some cases combined with drought to foster desertification. Moreover, the least-developed countries for the most part lacked an industrial base from which to increase their exports at a rapid rate in the way that other developing countries had succeeded in doing in the 1970s. In this connection, it had been noted that the least-developed countries doubled the value of manufactured exports between 1970 and 1980, while developing countries as a group, excluding major oil exporters, increased these exports more than tenfold. An additional constraint to the trade of the least-developed countries arose from the high transport cost structure and lack of adequate transport facilities that many of these countries faced.

16. In relation to the factors effecting the trade of least-developed countries which were of immediate concern to the Sub-Committee, the representative of UNCTAD referred to a range of protective measures maintained by developed countries which effected the exports of the least-developed countries. In particular, he referred to non-tariff measures, including volume constraints, price controls, as well as automatic import authorizations. He expressed the view that the impact of these measures on the least-developed countries was striking, affecting markets of particular importance for their economies, including those for fruit, sugar, rice, fish, vegetable oils and live animals. He also noted that trade in services was an important factor in the export earnings of the least-developed countries, accounting for almost 30 per cent of their total export earnings. Finally, in relation to the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the least-developed countries, the representative of UNCTAD said that his organization agreed that little progress had been made since the 1981 Paris Conference, and it was to be hoped that the mid-term review would bring about a renewed commitment to this Programme.

17. In his introductory statement, the representative of Tanzania referred to the background information provided by his authorities as well as to the secretariat documentation, and said that these documents reflected the difficult economic situation faced by Tanzania, as well as the efforts being made to address the situation. He expressed the gratitude of his authorities for the assistance that many of the countries represented at the meeting had provided in the past and expressed his hope that this assistance would continue at increased levels. He noted in particular the efforts of his Government in the field of trade promotion and in the expansion and diversification of exports. He noted that agricultural commodities would continue to be the main export item but there were indications that the shares in exports of manufactures, minerals and handicrafts were increasing. He expressed his readiness to provide any clarifications, or additional information, or to answer any questions during the course of the consultations.

18. The representative of the European Communities noted that the EEC played a major role in Tanzania's external trade. Tanzania was a member of the Lome Convention, and although the latest convention had yet to be finalized, he expressed the determination of his authorities to maintain and improve the Lome Convention, especially for the benefit of the least-developed countries. He noted that Tanzania was perhaps rather unusual amongst the least-developed countries in having a more diversified economy, including a certain manufacturing base which the EEC was assisting in a variety of ways. He said that the EEC trade regime essentially gave unlimited duty-free access under the Lome Convention to Tanzania's exports. He expressed the view that whilst there was not much scope for improvement in the trade regime, the EEC could concentrate on improving bilateral aid flows to Tanzania.

19. Referring to Tanzania's trade with countries in the same region, the representative of the European Communities noted that while there was a certain amount of trade between Tanzania and these countries, this trade still represented a very modest portion of Tanzania's total trade. He wondered what scope there was for increasing this trade, particularly in view of the predominant position of the EEC as a market for Tanzania's exports.

20. In responding to the intervention by the representative of the European Communities, the representative of Tanzania said that considerable efforts had been made to expand trade with neighbouring countries, including the examination of proposals for special clearing arrangements between countries in the region. He noted, however, that many of these countries faced acute balance-of-payments difficulties, which limited their scope to expand their imports from Tanzania. Because of this, the EEC was likely to remain the main destination of Tanzania's exports. The representative of Tanzania expressed the gratitude of his authorities for the benefits that had been provided under the Lome Convention. He noted, however, that disbursement of assistance for trade promotion had been rather slow in the past and requested that the EEC Commission seek ways of expediting such assistance in the future. He also requested that consideration be given, by the EEC as well as by other donors, to the possibility of increasing assistance for trade promotion activities. He said that such assistance was vital to Tanzania's efforts to generate export surpluses.

21. The representative of the United States said that her country was not a large trading partner of Tanzania. Nevertheless, she wished to reassure Tanzania, as well as other least-developed countries, of the high priority that her authorities attached to the Ministerial Decisions of November 1982 concerning actions aimed at facilitating the trade of the least-developed countries. In this connection she noted that the United States GSP scheme had been extended to July 1993, and that under the new legislation the least-developed countries were exempted from the competitive need limitations provided for in the scheme. She expressed the hope that this would provide additional incentives to exporters from least-developed countries, although she noted that in many cases exports from these countries entering the United States under the GSP accounted for a relatively small proportion of total imports. United States imports from Tanzania amounted to US\$14.1 million in 1983, of which 95 per cent entered duty-free on an m.f.n. basis. Agricultural imports accounted for US\$8.6 million, of which 97 per cent entered duty-free on an m.f.n. basis.

22. In regard to aid programmes, the United States representative noted that these had been discussed extensively on a multilateral basis, most recently at the World Bank meetings. She noted that the United States had

reiterated its concern over the problems of Sub-Saharan Africa and that this region had priority in United States bilateral aid efforts. Particular emphasis was placed on helping countries which were undertaking difficult adjustment measures. The United States representative noted that a representative from the ITC was present and asked whether the ITC had any other programmes in mind that could be undertaken for Tanzania or for the least-developed countries in general. She also expressed the view that there was a need for institutional reforms in some least-developed countries to restore production incentives and to place more reliance on the market and initiatives from the private sector. She inquired whether there were any reform efforts underway in Tanzania in this regard.

23. The representative of Tanzania expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the United States to extend its GSP until 1993. He noted that while the value of Tanzania's trade with the United States might appear modest from the point of view of the United States, it represented a significant sum to Tanzania. The representative of Tanzania said that his Government had undertaken a series of institutional reforms and had introduced new production incentives, particularly in the last budget. He noted that these new policies sought to provide a larger rôle for the market in allocating resources and to reduce the monopoly power of the parastatals. In the agricultural sector, new emphasis had been placed on co-operative marketing arrangements. He noted, however, that these reforms would be difficult to carry through without support from other countries which were in a position to assist.

24. In response to the inquiry from the United States representative, the representative of the ITC said that ITC assistance to Tanzania had concentrated both on export promotion and on import management, but the interest in these programmes had so far been confined to only one donor. He expressed the hope that other donors might also become involved in these programmes.

25. The representative of Canada said that the trade between his country and Tanzania was quite small. In 1982 imports from Tanzania amounted to US\$2.6 million, 99.1 per cent of which entered duty-free. He noted that the Canadian GSP scheme had recently been renewed for a further ten years, and that under this scheme the least-developed countries were eligible for duty-free entry on all products covered by the scheme. Furthermore, the

Canadian GSP scheme did not have any ceiling limits, and over the past year the rules of origin had also been improved in order to allow for cumulative origin from beneficiaries. The representative of Canada also referred to the Canadian Trade Facilitation Office, which had been set up under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency, whose function it was to identify specific companies in Canada who would be interested in buying from producers in the least-developed countries.

26. The representative of New Zealand said that as indicated in paragraph 78 of COM.TD/LLDC/W/14, New Zealand's imports from Tanzania, which only amounted to US\$1.69 million in 1981, all entered New Zealand duty-free.

27. The representative of Norway noted that his country's imports from Tanzania were mainly agricultural products, which broadly speaking, entered without restrictions. In the case of industrial products, he noted that the utilization rate of the GSP was only 8 per cent, and said that this highlighted the continuing need for technical assistance. A source of concern for the least-developed countries had been the global quota applied under Article XIX for textile items, but this had been terminated in July 1984 and replaced by bilateral agreements under the MFA. He said that these new arrangements were likely to lead to increased imports from developing countries and especially from the least-developed countries, who were not usually parties to bilateral restraint agreements.

28. The representative of Japan noted that Tanzania's exports to Japan represented only 2.8 per cent of total Tanzanian exports in 1981. Most of these goods entered duty free either under m.f.n., the GSP or on the basis of special provisions within the GSP in favour of the least-developed countries. In 1983, 95 per cent of all imports from Tanzania entered Japan duty free.

29. The representative of Switzerland referred to the request by Tanzania for the reduction of GSP rates or the inclusion under GSP of raw coffee, husks and skins, and coffee extracts. He expressed the view that this was the only problem that existed between Switzerland and Tanzania, but raised the question whether this tax on coffee had any effect on coffee consumption. He said that Tanzanian requests would be noted in the context of the annual review of the Swiss GSP scheme. He also noted that efforts were made to ensure that GSP preference margins were not eroded when

consideration was given to the reduction of m.f.n. duties. The Swiss representative expressed the view that the trade problems of countries like Tanzania often concerned trade promotion as opposed to conditions of access. In this connection, he said that it would be useful to look at this question in a bilateral setting and also in terms of ITC activities. Referring to the opening remarks of the Chairman, the Swiss representative said that whilst it would be useful to look at some of the questions that were raised, this was something that should be done by all contracting parties and not just on the basis of an exchange of views between those contracting parties who were present at this meeting.

30. The representative of Australia said that for historical and geographical reasons, her country was not a significant trading partner of Tanzania. She noted that Australia's GSP scheme did not at present include any special provisions in favour of the least-developed countries. However, the GSP scheme was currently under review, and in the context of the Ministerial Decision on least-developed countries, consideration was being given to the possibility of providing special treatment for the least-developed countries, for example in provisions relating to the rules of origin. It was necessary, however, to wait for the review process to be completed. The representative of Australia also noted that in 1982-1983, 97.6 per cent of Australian import clearances from Tanzania entered duty-free or under the GSP. Furthermore, 83.7 per cent of this share entered duty-free either at general or concessional rates.

31. The representative of Austria announced that with effect from 1 January 1985, certain measures would be taken to improve the conditions of access for certain spices and solid coffee extracts. He said that he would communicate the details of these measures to contracting parties as soon as he had the full information. He also informed the Committee that his authorities had decided to accelerate the Tokyo Round tariff reductions, with the 1986 step reduction being brought into effect in 1985 and the 1987 step being introduced in 1986. He said that these reductions would also be matched by corresponding reductions in the GSP preference rates for developing countries.

32. The representative of the World Bank informed the Committee that the World Bank Board of Executive Directors had recently approved a US\$10 million credit for technical assistance to Tanzania. Most of these funds

would be devoted to institution building in the context of Tanzania's current adjustment programmes. He expressed the view that this kind of institution building was important in order for Tanzania to benefit fully from assistance provided in the productive sectors of the economy.

33. In responding to the comments made by delegations, the representative of Tanzania said that his country attached particular importance to the trade promotion aspects of expanding exports. He noted that the ITC was active in this regard, but reiterated the need for additional financial resources in order to expand these activities. He also informed the Sub-Committee that his authorities were seeking funds to establish a Revolving Fund for export financing. He said that this fund would require a revolving sum of US\$10 million and asked that donors give consideration to this proposal.

34. In referring to the specific requests contained in document COM.TD/LLDC/W/18, the representative of Tanzania expressed the gratitude of his authorities for the past efforts made by contracting parties to help increase and diversify Tanzania's exports. He noted, however, that as indicated in the submission, some barriers to Tanzania's exports still remained. He recognized that it was not possible for all reactions to these requests to be given immediately, but expressed the hope that favourable answers would be forthcoming in due course. He expressed the wish that Tanzania's list of requests remain on the table and be reverted to at future meetings of the Sub-Committee or on a bilateral basis. He also said that he wished to reserve the right to supplement or revise these requests.

35. The representative of the European Communities said that he had noted the requests made to the EEC and that he would pass them on to his authorities. He said that tomatoes and apples were the only products of interest to Tanzania which were subject to duty. His authorities had given careful thought to this question before deciding to maintain import duties on these products. In regard to the internal taxes levied on coffee and cocoa, the representative of the European Communities questioned whether these taxes had a significant effect on consumption levels. He recalled that the EEC had made certain undertakings in regard to these selective internal taxes in 1979, and said that the question of whether these undertakings could be strengthened was currently being examined. The EEC

representative said that he had taken note of the comments made on trade promotion, particularly in relation to the delay in disbursement of earmarked funds. He said that he would transmit these comments to his authorities. He also said that he would refer the question of the financing of the Revolving Fund to his authorities.

36. The representative of the United States said that she had taken note of the requests addressed to her country, and observed that these items had already been covered in the tropical products consultations. She said that most of the items were highly sensitive in the United States and that this had to be borne in mind in any consideration of introducing or improving preferential access on these products. She noted, however, that there had never been a request for GSP inclusion for cloves, and said that this possibility could be considered if Tanzania made a request to that effect in the context of the GSP review procedures.

37. The representative of Sweden referred to the request of Tanzania in respect of cotton fabrics and said that he did not see any possibility of including this item in Sweden's GSP scheme at present. He said, however, that this question would be considered in next year's review of the GSP scheme. He noted that consideration was also being given to the possibility of making special provisions in favour of least-developed countries in the Swedish GSP scheme.

38. The representative of Canada observed that there had not been time for an in-depth consideration of the requests addressed to this country, but on the basis of a preliminary review, he did not see much prospect for immediate action. He noted that the four textiles items included in the list of requests were highly sensitive and were not subject to GSP. Moreover, the GSP provisions provided for special least-developed country treatment in the context of products covered by the GSP, but not in respect of GSP product coverage itself. In regard to the request on vegetables, the representative of Canada said that his authorities would examine the question to determine if there were any prospects for inclusion of this item in the GSP. In regard to tobacco, he noted that this was a very sensitive area and that the domestic situation had deteriorated recently. He pointed out, however, that there was already GSP coverage on unstemmed tobacco used in cigars and said that this may be a product on which Tanzania could benefit more fully from preferential treatment.

39. The representative of New Zealand said that his authorities were continuing to give full and careful consideration to the requests made by Tanzania. These requests would be addressed in relation to the current trade liberalization measures which were being undertaken by New Zealand in the context of industry development studies and the import licensing tendering scheme. Requests such as those of Tanzania were useful as an information input in relation to New Zealand's current efforts to introduce wide-ranging trade liberalization measures. It was not possible to provide detailed responses to the requests at this stage, partly because industry development plans were still in their formative stages, and partly because the requests from Tanzania had only been received a short time ago. In regard to the request on tea, the representative of New Zealand noted that tea in retail packs now entered New Zealand duty-free, and tea also fell under the import licensing tendering scheme. This item was subject to review with a view to the possibility of removing it from import licensing. Tea in larger packs was covered by the packaging industry study which was underway. He also noted that tea extracts were already exempt from import licensing. In regard to the requests from Tanzania on beeswax, manufactured tobacco and wood, the representative of New Zealand noted that these items were subject to licensing in the light of the relation between domestic requirements and domestic production. In the case of unmanufactured tobacco, the 1983/84 licensing levels were two times higher than in the previous period and this product was currently under review. In the case of twine, cordage, ropes, sacks and bags, he said that these items came under the packaging industry study, which was not yet completed.

40. The representative of Australia said that her authorities were still considering the requests addressed to them by Tanzania. She was confident that these requests would be considered in as sympathetic a manner as possible, and said that replies would be transmitted to Tanzania in due course. She noted that many items on the request list were particularly sensitive in the domestic market or else involved special relationships with particular countries, such as the case of coffee exports from Papua New Guinea. She said that many of the items on the request list had already been addressed in the tropical products consultations. In the case of unmanufactured tobacco, she noted that the preference rates were confirmed in June 1983, following an inquiry by the Industries Assistance Commission, which had recommended the removal of the GSP preference. In the case of other twine, cordage, ropes and cables, she noted that there

was a duty-free preference quota for \$A 90,000, after which the general rate applied. She said that as the Australian industry was sensitive in relation to this product, the alternative to a developing country quota would be the removal of the preference for this item.

41. The representative of Finland said that imports from Tanzania had increased rapidly in the last four years, from FIM 4 million in 1979 to FIM 70 million in 1983. This increase was accounted for by the introduction in 1980 of duty-free treatment for unroasted coffee. In regard to the request by Tanzania on honey, the representative of Finland said that he had taken note of the request but that this was a very sensitive item. In regard to the request on instant coffee, the representative of Finland said that coffee extracts imported from least-developed countries already entered duty-free, and suggested that Tanzanian exporters enquire of the Finnish Customs Authorities whether their instant coffee exports were receiving duty-free treatment. In regard to the requests on other carpets, the representative of Finland said that certain products under this tariff line were already receiving duty-free treatment, but it was difficult to envisage an expansion of this coverage at the present time.

42. The representative of Japan said that the requests from Tanzania had already been addressed in the context of the consultations on tropical products. He noted that the Japanese GSP scheme was subject to annual review and that careful attention would be given to Tanzania's requests in the context of that review. He also observed that the ceiling limitations under GSP on twine, cordage, ropes and cables had been removed with effect from April 1984.

43. The representative of Norway, referring to the request by Tanzania for the removal of internal taxes on cocoa paste and butter, said that this tax was non-discriminatory and that his authorities had no plans to eliminate it at present. He pointed out that there was no duty on this item for Tanzania, as all products covered by the GSP imported from the least-developed countries entered duty-free. In regard to honey, he pointed out that Norway had a permanent duty-free quota on this product which had not yet been filled. He said that there may be potential for Tanzania to obtain a share of this quota.

44. The representative of Tanzania expressed his gratitude for the responses and explanations which had been given by the developed countries in regard to Tanzania's request list. He said that he had noted the responses and reiterated that he reserved the right of his authorities to revert to these questions either in the Sub-Committee or on a bilateral basis. He expressed the view that the arguments put forward by a number of developed countries concerning the sensitivity of products in their markets did not correspond with the realities of the situation. He pointed out that in virtually all markets the least-developed countries were little more than token suppliers, accounting for an almost negligible share of trade. He felt, therefore, that it was inappropriate to deny the least-developed countries more favourable terms of access on the grounds that this may cause market disruption and he appealed to his country's major trading partners to give favourable consideration to the requests that had been made.

45. In summing up the consultations with Tanzania, the Chairman said that it was his understanding that all comments and suggestions, as well as responses were to be noted. He said that governments were invited to examine specific issues and requests, and to provide responses through appropriate bilateral or multilateral channels. He said that there appeared to be agreement in the Sub-Committee that these consultations should be considered as a continuing process. It would be open for the Sub-Committee to revert to any of the issues raised in future meetings and to follow up as appropriate on actions taken.

## II. Other items on the Agenda

46. In order to facilitate the treatment of the remaining items on the Agenda the Chairman suggested that the Sub-Committee should first address the subject under Agenda item (iii) and then go on to discuss items (ii) and (iv) together.

## III. Agenda item (iii): review of measures taken in favour of least-developed countries and follow-up action on previous ad hoc consultation - Consultations with Bangladesh

47. The Chairman pointed out that at the end of the ad hoc consultations between Bangladesh and its trading partners it was concluded, inter alia,

that the Sub-Committee would have an opportunity in the future to revert to the issues raised during the consultations. At the request of Bangladesh, the list of proposals submitted at the consultations last year for improvement in tariff and GSP treatment on particular products, for the removal of certain non-tariff measures, and for improvements in rules of origin as they affect its exports were being re-submitted in document COM.TD/LLDC/W/10/Rev.1. He added that information on follow-up action taken by one country has been included in COM.TD/LLDC/W/17.

48. At the invitation of the Chairman the representative of Bangladesh made a statement introducing his country's revised submission. He stated that following the consultations during which his country had submitted a request list for further liberalization of trade through reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff obstacles to its exports in selected markets, matters have been followed up bilaterally and correspondence have been exchanged which would be referred to later. He then went on to give a brief picture of the current economic and trade situation of Bangladesh.

49. He referred to a number of economic indicators to highlight the serious economic situation of the country; high population density and increase which almost negated all economic growth; limited natural resources, inherent structural weaknesses of the economy and the difficulty of raising national savings, leading to increasing dependence on external assistance; a substantial deterioration in the terms of trade in recent years; stagnation in exports with export earnings barely enough to finance 30 per cent of imports, leading to increasing balance-of-payments deficits and external debts. Moreover recent floods experienced by the country had almost nullified any improvements in the economy resulting from a series of rationalization measures undertaken by the Government. He stressed that the situation called for expanded volume of assistance from the international community in the form of development assistance as well as further liberalization of trade. He stressed that the efforts being made by Bangladesh in expanding its export base were reflected in the increase of non-traditional exports but there were indications that such efforts would face problems if its trading partners did not take immediate measures to further liberalize the entry of its export products to their markets. It was in this context that Bangladesh's request for allowing its exports more liberalized access has assumed increased significance.

50. Referring to his country's revised submission outlined in document COM.TD/LLDC/W/10/Rev.1 in which requests on tariffs and non-tariff measures affecting exports of Bangladesh to Australia, Austria, EEC, Japan, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United States have been made, he observed that many of his country's trading partners had not yet been able to respond adequately to the requests made in 1983 during the consultations with them. He however expressed his country's deep appreciation to some of those countries for the measures undertaken by them in an attempt to remove the tariff and non-tariff obstacles facing his country's exports to their markets. He expressed his Government's sincere appreciation to Norway for having responded to his country's request by agreeing to phase out the non-tariff measures on important items like silk and by removing quota restrictions on ready-made garments from Bangladesh. He recalled that Norway was the first country to accord complete duty-free treatment to his country's exports as far back as in 1976. It was his country's sincere hope that Norway, in keeping with its tradition of playing a pioneering role in helping least-developed countries like Bangladesh, would be able to remove the remaining obstacles which existed like licensing requirements and voluntary export restraints.

51. He also expressed his country's appreciation to the European Communities which are its largest export market, for their sympathetic treatment to the least-developed countries including Bangladesh. However, he observed that it had not been possible for the Communities to respond effectively to his country's request for further liberalizing the treatment of textile fabric exported by Bangladesh. He reiterated his appeal to the Communities to consider removing the remaining non-tariff obstacles including those affecting his country's export of garments and other textile products. He also observed that exports of few other important products from Bangladesh including tea, unmanufactured tobacco, industrial alcohol and leather products among others were still subject to various types of tariff and non-tariff measures.

52. He pointed out that the United States constituted a major market for Bangladesh and in the last consultation a list of items of export interest to Bangladesh was submitted to the United States Government for consideration of the removal of the obstacles facing them. He observed that the situation relating to textiles and textile products, leather and leather products, jute yarn, jute bags and sacks and other items has

remained virtually unchanged. It has been explained that due to domestic sensitivity and other reasons it has not been possible for the United States Government to respond more positively to the requests. He pointed out that the LDCs, which together, have less than 0.4 per cent share in world trade were not in a position to create any market disruption and should be exempted from the actions taken on the ground of domestic sensitivity. He reiterated his appeal to the Government of the United States to kindly review the matter taking into account the desperate need of Bangladesh and other LDCs to increase their export earnings in order to lessen their dependence on external support. He added that his Government has adopted a series of domestic measures designed to improve the economic situation, and believed that the international community appreciated the steps taken and would continue to give them their support to overcome their problems. He went on to record his country's deep appreciation to the United States Government for exempting least-developed countries from the competitive need criteria in its GSP scheme. This measure would result in the liberalization of some jute items to the United States market.

53. He noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan had taken some steps to facilitate the trade of the least-developed countries by offering duty-free access to certain products including some jute items of interest to Bangladesh; however, ceiling limitations remained on certain of his country's major jute exports. He pointed out further that it had also not been possible for Japan to completely remove obstacles to the trade of important products like shrimps, leather and leather goods, jute yarn, pineapple juice, ethyl alcohol, etc. He stated that during the last consultations on tropical products the Japanese delegation had explained that the administrative measures regarding import of jute bags were mostly procedural and should not prove a major obstacle. His authorities realized the need to take care of health hazards but they believed that further simplification of procurement procedure would enable Bangladesh to increase its export to Japan. He also requested the Japanese authorities to consider removing all other tariff and non-tariff obstacles to his country's exports.

54. He pointed out that the exports of his country to the Australian market continued to face obstacles such as duties, import restrictions and complicated procurement procedures especially for jute bags. He added that

his authorities had also requested a relaxation of the substantial transformation criteria in its rules of origin on behalf of the least-developed countries and it was understood that the Australian authorities were considering this matter along with the proposal for giving special tariff treatment to the LDCs. He expressed the hope that it would be possible for the Government to respond to those requests more positively in the near future.

55. The representative of Bangladesh pointed out with regard to his country's exports to New Zealand that these were facing obstacles in the form of tariff and non-tariff measures, with the main items involved being shrimps, tea, jute bags, carpets, leather goods and tobacco. He added that it has been explained to his authorities that the Government of New Zealand was actively reviewing its overall trade liberalization policy. He expressed the hope that the special problems of the least-developed countries like Bangladesh would be taken into account in conformity with the Ministerial Decision that these countries be given the maximum possible trade facilities.

56. He pointed out that his country's requests to the Swedish authorities for the removal of the remaining obstacles to its exports have been updated in document COM.TD/LLDC/W/10/Rev.1 and while he deeply appreciated the steps taken by Sweden towards facilitating the trade of the least-developed countries he would request that the remaining obstacles be also removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

57. With regard to the request addressed to the Government of Finland, his authorities have been made to understand that they were under consideration.

58. He stated that the Austrian Government had responded positively, although in a limited extent, to the requests addressed to it last year by Bangladesh and duties have been reduced for the least-developed countries in certain cases. His authorities felt that complete elimination or substantial reduction of duties and other non-tariff measures would greatly enhance their country's capacity to export to the Austrian market. His Government was also thankful to the Austrian Government for the trade liberalization measures just announced to the Sub-Committee. He was

convinced, however, that certain other measures would also have to be taken to expand his country's exports to Austria and some steps in that direction have already been taken bilaterally.

59. He expressed the conviction that there was a genuine desire and goodwill in the major trading countries towards the least-developed countries and a full awareness of their special needs. What was needed was quicker action on their part towards fullest implementation of previous decisions and commitments and more particularly the Ministerial Declaration of 1982. In conclusion he expressed his thanks to the GATT secretariat for the extremely useful documentation prepared and for its effective technical assistance to the least-developed countries.

60. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the representative of Bangladesh for his expose on the economic situation and problems of his country. Although the picture given was rather gloomy there were certain openings and positive developments and actions taken by certain countries including his own which could be noted with satisfaction. These developments proved the usefulness of this programme of individual consultations. He added that although the Sub-Committee was not holding full consultations with Bangladesh, countries which wanted to respond to or comment on the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh could do so.

61. The representative of the European Economic Communities expressed his appreciation to the representative of Bangladesh for giving a description of the economic situation of his country which despite some progress made was a rather gloomy one. By way of throwing more light on the response made to the request addressed to the EEC during the consultations with Bangladesh he said firstly that there was a lengthy discussion in Brussels after the consultations on the problems raised with regard to GSP rules of origin. In January this year it was announced that the EEC would introduce an accelerated procedure to look, on a case-by-case basis, at requests by the LDCs for country waivers from the rules of origin of the Community GSP system. This was made known to the diplomatic missions in Brussels. However, no such request had been received from any least-developed country up to the time of this meeting. He added that the Community would welcome such requests and the Community's staff in Brussels would happily meet

with the representative of Bangladesh or of any other LDCs in order to help prepare specific requests. The Community was ready to give rapid and sympathetic consideration to such requests.

62. With regard to tea he referred the representative of Bangladesh to the response given earlier in the morning during the consultations with Tanzania and added that it was a problem of which they were all aware and would continue to keep fully in mind. With regard to tobacco he noted that Bangladesh as a least-developed country has a considerable competitive advantage over other developing countries in that imports were duty free and although there was a quota limitation on Virginia flue-cured tobacco, it was under-utilized. He would therefore encourage Bangladesh to make full use of it since it would reinforce their own pressure to improve the system. On pineapple juice he reported that there was nothing he could say. He reminded the Sub-Committee, however, that the whole GSP system of the Community for 1985 was due to be reviewed soon. Although there was little hope for any substantial progress with regard to this particular product he drew attention to the fact that Bangladesh as an LDC continued to benefit from a substantial preferential duty margin of about 17 per cent over other GSP beneficiaries. He added that as a result of previously-announced measures imports of jute products were duty and quota free within the Community's GSP system.

63. The representative of Australia thanked the representative of Bangladesh for his lengthy and informative introductory statement. For the information of the Sub-Committee she said that the request made to Australia during the consultations with Bangladesh last year were repeated in bilateral consultations early this year and the response of Australia, which was quite comprehensive and systematic, was conveyed to the Bangladeshi authorities in Dakha and to the High Commission in Canberra and she was quite willing to pass it on to the secretariat and the Bangladeshi representative in Geneva if he wished. The only other point she wanted to comment on was the request to Australia to relax the substantive transformation criterion in the rules of origin in its GSP scheme: she explained that Australia did not use the substantive transformation criterion in its system. The Australian system was based rather on a percentage criterion, and to qualify for preferential treatment under the Australian system a product must contain at least 50 per cent of developing-country content in the total ex-factory cost of the product.

Any number of developing countries could contribute to the developing country content of the product and the Australian content could also be considered as if it were a developing-country content. She added that Australia regarded the percentage system as being more favourable to the developing countries.

64. The representative of New Zealand expressed his appreciation to the representative of Bangladesh for his introductory statement and stated that some of the products contained in the Bangladesh request list, such as tea and unmanufactured tobacco, have already been commented on by him during the consultations with Tanzania earlier on. Noting that one of the most important groups of products contained in the Bangladesh request list were those dealing with textiles, he stated that these items were among those included in his country's review of its textiles plan, as was explained during the tropical products consultations. At that time it was promised that it might be possible for more information to be given at a later stage in the exercise; unfortunately, that stage has not been reached yet. He added that they were, however, approaching a point where the recommendations of the Industries Development Group would be presented to the Government.

65. The representative of the United States joined others in thanking the representative of Bangladesh for the useful analysis of his country's economy. She stated that there was good news with regard to the two non-tariff measures included in the requests addressed to her country in COM.TD/LLDC/W/10/Add.1. Firstly, the minimum percentage added value in the United States GSP rules of origin had not been changed from 35 per cent to 50 per cent as stated in that document. She added that there had been no changes in the United States rules of origin criteria for single countries, and that the confusion might have arisen from the changes made in regard to regional groups where the minimum percentage of added value was reduced from 50 per cent to 35 per cent. Secondly, the competitive need criterion in the United States GSP system has henceforth been dispensed with in the case of imports from least-developed countries as requested by Bangladesh. She added that this would be particularly advantageous to the exports of yarns of plied jute (TSUS 30530) in which Bangladesh was considered to be quite competitive.

66. While thanking delegations which had responded to or commented on the requests addressed to them the representative of Bangladesh asked for further clarification from the EEC with regard to the request made to it on unmanufactured tobacco on which there was still a GSP rate of 7 per cent. He in particular thanked the delegation of the United States for the clarification and information given on the rules of origin and expressed the hope that further consultations would be held with the other countries concerned bilaterally or within the Sub-Committee.

67. In summing up the discussions on this item the Chairman expressed the hope that the final comments made by the representative of Bangladesh have been duly noted and that any further individual comments could be communicated bilaterally. He reiterated his view that the consultations have been useful. They should be considered as a continuous dialogue and there was therefore nothing preventing any least-developed country with which consultations have been held from continuing the dialogue.

IV. Agenda items (ii) and (iv): review of recent developments in international trade of relevance to the trade of least-developed countries and identification of existing barriers to the exports of least-developed countries

68. Discussions on these agenda items were based on the relevant sections of the secretariat note COM.TD/LLDC/W/17 and on the secretariat note COM.TD/LLDC/W/16 which contains information on the tariff and non-tariff measure situation affecting certain products of export interest to least-developed countries and data on trade flows.

69. While thanking the secretariat for the comprehensive data provided in its documentation the representative of a least-developed country demanded whether a more comprehensive analysis of trends could not in future be included in the information given. Commenting on the secretariat documents, he highlighted, inter alia, the unfavourable balance-of-payments situation of his country and of least-developed countries as a whole, the unstable commodity price trends, the worsening external debt situation and the decrease in external aid flow to the least-developed countries. He added that least-developed countries were looking forward to the forthcoming review in 1985 of the SNPA which should afford developed countries the opportunity to reconsider the commitments made by them on trade liberalization and aid flows.

70. The representative of Canada drew the attention of the Sub-Committee to a number of recent measures of significance to the least-developed countries taken by his Government but which had not been reflected in the secretariat background note. Firstly, the Canadian Government had for the purposes of the GSP scheme included Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao-Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo in its list of least-developed countries. Secondly, the Canadian Parliament had approved legislation extending the Canadian GSP scheme for a further ten years to 30 June 1994. Thirdly, by an Order-in-Council dated 8 August 1984 an amendment to the rules of origin regulations of the Canadian General Preferential Tariff was approved to allow for the implementation of global cumulative origin among beneficiary countries to meet the content requirements of the Canadian system of tariff preferences on imports from developing countries.

71. The representative of the United States referring to paragraph 15 of the secretariat note COM.TD/LLDC/W/17 drew attention to the fact mentioned earlier that the legislation in question had now been passed. She also pointed out that all the comments in the two documents under discussion seemed to be directed towards the developed countries; there were, however, products of export interest to the least-developed countries which went to the more developed among the developing countries and the secretariat should in future take into account what these countries were doing for the least-developed countries.

72. The representative of the EEC expressed his appreciation for the effort which had gone into the preparation of the secretariat background note COM.TD/LLDC/W/16 which he considered a useful basis for the Sub-Committee's work. He commented, with regard to the section on non-tariff measures, that while the information was correct in strict legal terms, the situation in certain areas was somewhat different, in actual practice. Firstly, the various quotas shown on MFA textiles were in fact not applied since the quotas have, de facto, been superseded by bilateral MFA restrictions; their application has effectively been suspended. Moreover in practice, as far as the least-developed countries were concerned, quotas were managed in such a way as to have the minimum of impact on their trade. In this context he referred to a question raised in the Chairman's opening statement regarding what could be done under the Enabling Clause to give more favourable treatment to the least-developed countries. The question as to whether or not the waiver on the provisions

of Article I might apply more widely with regard to actions in favour of the least-developed countries especially to non-tariff measures which were outside the scope of the provisions of the GATT Codes, needed to be reflected on. The Community would be interested in pursuing the discussion of this point. Although it might be a controversial point it was interesting in the context of the work being done in the Working Party on Quantitative Restrictions and Non-Tariff Measures. This idea would be examined within the Community with a positive spirit. He, however, added that care had to be taken as to how the issue was approached since it was a controversial idea which might cause some conceptual problems. Nonetheless it was an issue worth pursuing with a view to trying to remove the remaining non-tariff barriers which nowadays were more important to the trade of the least-developed countries than tariff barriers and might in terms of the interest of the importing countries have a relatively limited impact. Referring back to document COM.TD/LLDC/W/17 he commented that the information clearly summarized the economic situation in the least-developed countries and highlighted the need for action to be taken in the GATT and other fora to try to meet some of their problems. He added in passing that the Communities had made improvements in its GSP for the current years in favour of the least-developed countries and would try to extend still further the generally more-favourable treatment to these countries in the 1985 scheme. With regard to the activities in the various committees created under the various NTM codes he stated that there had been some discussions on the possible obstacles to the accession of interested non-signatory countries. So far there had been very little interest shown by least-developed countries and it might be useful for some of the least-developed countries to look at some of the codes, in the context of the specific provisions to make accession easier for developing countries and in particular for the least-developed countries.

73. The representative of Norway, speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, stated that in spite of a broad international recognition of the need to give special attention to the needs of the least-developed countries they continued to find themselves in a serious economic situation; and there was lack of dynamism in their economies. The Nordic countries have tried to join international actions aimed at alleviating the situation, inter alia, the follow-up on the action programme adopted at the Paris Conference on the least-developed countries; secondly, by providing substantial contributions to the ITC; thirdly by supporting efforts to

strengthen multilateral development organizations so as to enable them to increase their assistance to the least-developed countries; and fourthly by participating in multilateral negotiations on commodity agreements. Although they appreciated these and other actions by the international community, they did not consider the possibilities of special actions in favour of the least-developed countries in the trade field, as exhausted. They would like to study with other GATT members further possibilities for more favourable treatment designed to promote substantial increase in the export of the LDCs. In the context of a possible new Round or otherwise they might explore further what arrangements could be beneficial to the trade of the LDCs. They have noted the comments on the possible application of the Enabling Clause and without prejudging the Nordic position in this matter they would welcome further discussion of this issue in the GATT in the near future.

74. Concluding the discussions on this item of the agenda the Chairman remarked that the discussions had indicated a general desire that further measures be taken in the trade field to promote the trade interests of the least-developed countries and in this regard he made a number of suggestions under his own responsibility. Firstly, that countries which have not yet given special tariff treatment to the LDCs within their GSP schemes do so on a complete duty-free and quota-free basis for all products of export interest to them. Secondly, that those contracting parties already according special status to LDCs with certain exceptions and limitations especially on textiles, jute and a number of agricultural products remove such exceptions and limitations and grant duty- and quota-free access. It could also be suggested that all special measures such as competitive-need criteria which might erode the full value of GSP schemes be waived in favour of the LDCs. It might also be suggested that a simple duty- and quota-free system for imports of handmade products from the least-developed countries be established by developed contracting parties. With regard to non-tariff measures it could be suggested that priority be given to LDCs in the provision of technical assistance at both national and international levels with regard to quality, technical standards and phytosanitary requirements. The possibility of exempting LDCs from quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures falling outside the scope of MTN Agreements could also be examined further in the appropriate GATT fora. On rules of origin regarding GSP and LDC treatment the following possibilities could be considered: simplification of rules

of origin in favour of the LDCs; adoption of liberal cumulative origin rules in favour of the LDCs; and a generally more liberal and differential application of rules of origin in favour of the LDCs.

V. Agenda item (v): technical assistance by the secretariat to least-developed countries

75. The representative of a group of countries asked whether the secretariat technical missions sent to the Central African Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania in connection with the consultations between them and their trading partners limited themselves solely to assistance in the preparation of country submissions or had the opportunity to offer other types of technical assistance for example in the trade policy field. The representatives of some least-developed countries expressed their gratitude for the various forms of technical assistance which they received from the secretariat and qualified the assistance as having been extremely useful. With special reference to the secretariat technical missions made in the framework of the preparatory work for the consultation they considered them as having been most useful, for not only did they help the host countries in preparing for the consultations but they also generated a general awareness of the activities of the GATT and the other technical assistance possibilities opened to them. They expressed the hope that similar missions would be organized in connection with similar consultations in the future.

76. The representative of the secretariat stated that the technical missions, in which certain other international organizations collaborated, were very limited in size, in scope and in duration and had the main function of explaining to the host countries the nature and scope of the consultations and of helping in the preparation for them. They had also enabled officials in the countries concerned to be more informed about the trade situation in a multilateral context and about the various facilities available for these countries as well as the limitation in the GATT system. He explained that these technical missions should not be confused with the secretariat technical co-operation missions which often organized trade policy seminars and workshops. He added that the secretariat always considered the possibility, if scheduling allowed, of making such missions part of wider technical co-operation missions. He took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the FAO and the ITC which collaborated actively in the preparation of the missions.

Chairman's concluding remarks

77. The Chairman made some concluding remarks and noted that a full report on the meeting would be made available to the Committee on Trade and Development at its next meeting. He also noted that the meeting of the Sub-Committee had been useful, especially the consultations with Tanzania, while the discussions with Bangladesh had demonstrated how follow-up consultations could be organized. On the whole the dialogue on the other agenda items had allowed certain important elements to emerge and if some of these could be further examined within the GATT system, the present meeting would prove to have been most worthwhile. He expressed the need for the ad hoc consultations to go beyond the trade and trade-related issues to a broader consideration of the various economic problems facing individual least-developed countries, and it was in this context that he welcomed with gratitude the participation in the meeting of the representatives of the FAO, the World Bank and UNCTAD. He suggested that other aspects of the Sub-Committee's work might be revised in the future, taking into account certain problems such as scant attendance at meetings and the very considerable importance of the Sub-Committee's work in the light of the urgent needs of least-developed countries. .

78. The Chairman remarked that although the Sub-Committee normally met once a year, the possibility of an early meeting in the spring of 1985 might be considered.