Article 8
Surveillance, Review, Consultation, and Dispute Settlement

8.1 There shall be established a Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") composed of representatives of all Signatories. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman. It shall meet as necessary, but not less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Signatories the opportunity to consult on any matters relating to the operation of this Agreement, including developments in the civil aircraft industry, to determine whether amendments are required to ensure continuance of free and undistorted trade, to examine any matter for which it has not been possible to find a satisfactory solution through bilateral consultations, and to carry out such responsibilities as are assigned to it under this Agreement, or by the Signatories.

8.2 The Committee shall review annually the implementation and operation of this Agreement taking into account the objectives thereof. The Committee shall annually inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT of developments during the period covered by such review.

8.3 Not later than the end of the third year from the entry into force of this Agreement and periodically thereafter, Signatories shall undertake further negotiations, with a view to broadening and improving this Agreement on the basis of mutual reciprocity.

8.4 The Committee may establish such subsidiary bodies as may be appropriate to keep under regular review the application of this Agreement to ensure a continuing balance of mutual advantages. In particular, it shall establish an appropriate subsidiary body in order to ensure a continuing balance of mutual advantages, reciprocity and equivalent results with regard to the implementation of the provisions of Article 2 above related to product coverage, the end-use systems, customs duties and other charges.

8.5 Each Signatory shall afford sympathetic consideration to and adequate opportunity for prompt consultation regarding representations made by another Signatory with respect to any matter affecting the operation of this Agreement.

8.6 Signatories recognize the desirability of consultations with other Signatories in the Committee in order to seek a mutually acceptable solution prior to the initiation of an investigation to determine the existence, degree and effect of any alleged subsidy. In those exceptional circumstances in which no consultations occur before such domestic procedures are initiated, Signatories shall notify the Committee immediately of initiation of such procedures and enter into simultaneous consultations to seek a mutually agreed solution that would obviate the need for countervailing measures.

8.7 Should a Signatory consider that its trade interests in civil aircraft manufacture, repair, maintenance, rebuilding, modification or conversion have been or are likely to
be adversely affected by any action by another Signatory, it may request review of the matter by the Committee. Upon such a request, the Committee shall convene within thirty days and shall review the matter as quickly as possible with a view to resolving the issues involved as promptly as possible and in particular prior to final resolution of these issues elsewhere. In this connection the Committee may issue such rulings or recommendations as may be appropriate. Such review shall be without prejudice to the rights of Signatories under the GATT or under instruments multilaterally negotiated under the auspices of the GATT, as they affect trade in civil aircraft. For the purposes of aiding consideration of the issues involved, under the GATT and such instruments, the Committee may provide such technical assistance as may be appropriate.

8.8 Signatories agree that, with respect to any dispute related to a matter covered by this Agreement, but not covered by other instruments multilaterally negotiated under the auspices of the GATT, the provisions of Articles XXII and XXIII of the General Agreement and the provisions of the Understanding related to Notification, Consultation, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, by the Signatories and the Committee for the purposes of seeking settlement of such dispute. These procedures shall also be applied for the settlement of any dispute related to a matter covered by this Agreement and by another instrument multilaterally negotiated under the auspices of the GATT, should the parties to the dispute so agree.

1.2 Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft

1. The Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft reviews annually the implementation of the Aircraft Agreement pursuant to Article 8.2 and submits an annual report to the General Council pursuant to Article IV.8 of the WTO Agreement. From 1980 through 1995, the Committee submitted its annual reports to the GATT Council.

1.3 Negotiations pursuant to Article 8.3

2. In July 1982, the Committee began a process of examining proposals to broaden and improve the Agreement. Negotiations conducted under Article 8.3 led to a package extending the coverage of the Annex to the Agreement, which was implemented through the Third Certification of Modifications and Rectifications to the Annex, certified effective 1 January 1985.

3. On 16 July 1992, in response to a proposal by the European Communities and the United States, the Committee agreed to open negotiations under Article 8.3. The Committee agreed that these negotiations would be conducted in a Sub-Committee and would be open to signatories and to interested non-signatories. The Sub-Committee has not met since its fourteenth meeting in November 1995.

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3 GATT document L/5075. See also TCA/M/4, paras. 18-25.
1.4 Subsidiary bodies

4. At its meeting of 20 February 1980, the Aircraft Committee established a Technical Sub-Committee⁶, with the following terms of reference:

"1. Pursuant to Article 8.4, to examine the implementation of the provisions of Article 2 related to product coverage, the end-use system, customs duties and other charges, including matters relating to aircraft tariff nomenclature, and to report to the Committee.

2. In the light of the Preamble of the Agreement, to examine proposals for modifying the product coverage and to report thereon to the Committee".⁷

5. At its meeting of 16 July 1992, the Aircraft Committee also established the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft in which negotiations under Article 8.3 of the Agreement would be conducted.⁸ The Sub-Committee has not met since its fourteenth meeting in November 1995.⁹

1.5 Dispute settlement

6. The application of dispute settlement under the Agreement and its relation to dispute settlement under other agreements was discussed in March and April 1991.¹⁰

7. The Agreement is listed as a "covered agreement" in Appendix 1 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding. Appendix 1 provides that "[t]he applicability of this Understanding to the Plurilateral Trade Agreements shall be subject to the adoption of a decision by the parties to each agreement setting out the terms for the application of the Understanding to the individual agreement, including any special or additional rules or procedures for inclusion in Appendix 2, as notified to the DSB." In 1993 through 1997, on a number of occasions, the Committee discussed possible terms for rectification of the Agreement, including terms for application of the rules and procedures of the Dispute Settlement Understanding to disputes under the Agreement. As the Committee was unable to reach agreement on such a decision, as of February 2018 the Dispute Settlement Understanding still did not apply to disputes brought under the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft.

Current as of: February 2019

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⁶ GATT document AIR/M/1, paras. 36-40.
⁷ GATT documents AIR/M/1, para. 38; and AIR/3.
⁸ GATT document AIR/M/32, para. 35. See also GATT document AIR/M/34, paras. 6-11.
⁹ TCA/1. See also TCA/M/4, paras. 18-25.
¹⁰ See GATT documents AIR/W/80, AIR/W/81, AIR/W/82, AIR/W/84, AIR/W/85, AIR/M/29, AIR/M/30.