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1 ARTICLE IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

1.1 Text of Article IV

Article IV

Increasing Participation of Developing Countries

1. The increasing participation of developing country Members in world trade shall be facilitated through negotiated specific commitments, by different Members pursuant to Parts III and IV of this Agreement, relating to:

- (a) the strengthening of their domestic services capacity and its efficiency and competitiveness, *inter alia* through access to technology on a commercial basis;
- (b) the improvement of their access to distribution channels and information networks; and
- (c) the liberalization of market access in sectors and modes of supply of export interest to them.

2. Developed country Members, and to the extent possible other Members, shall establish contact points within two years from the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement to facilitate the access of developing country Members' service suppliers to information, related to their respective markets, concerning:

- (a) commercial and technical aspects of the supply of services;
- (b) registration, recognition and obtaining of professional qualifications; and
- (c) the availability of services technology.

3. Special priority shall be given to the least-developed country Members in the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2. Particular account shall be taken of the serious difficulty of the least-developed countries in accepting negotiated specific commitments in view of their special economic situation and their development, trade and financial needs.

1.2 General

1. With respect to the application of Article IV to electronic commerce, see the Progress Report adopted by the Council for Trade in Services in the context of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce on 19 July 1999.¹

¹ [S/L/74](#), para. 10.

1.3 Article IV:2 Contact points

1.3.1 General

2. With respect to the contact points provided for in paragraph 2, see the "Decision on the Notification of the Establishment of Enquiry and Contact Points" referenced in the document on Article III of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (Practice).

1.3.2 Accountancy services

3. With respect to contact points in accountancy services, see the Disciplines on Domestic Regulation in the Accountancy Sector, adopted by the Council for Trade in Services on 14 December 1998.²

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² [S/L/64](#), paras. 3-4.