

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

MIN(63)8
22 May 1963
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MEETING OF MINISTERS
16-21 May 1963

MEASURES FOR THE EXPANSION OF TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A MEANS OF FURTHERING THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Resolution Adopted on 21 May 1963

Recognizing that a maximum expansion of the export opportunities of less-developed countries would make an essential contribution to the development of their economies and the improvement in their standards of living,

Recognizing that to this end the highly industrialized countries especially, can make a major contribution by the elimination or drastic reduction of tariffs and other barriers to the importation and consumption of those products which the less-developed countries now produce or manufacture, or which may be produced or manufactured by their developing industries,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration of November 1961 and recognizing that, although some progress had been made in its implementation, there still remained a substantial gap between intent and performance,

Having considered the Programme of Action submitted by a group of less-developed countries,

Having agreed that the consideration of further measures and the pursuit of more ambitious goals should not stand in the way of implementing as quickly and as fully as possible the Programme of Action which represented a positive contribution which the industrialized countries could make to the development of the trade of the less-developed countries within the field in which GATT was specially competent, and

Recognizing that an adequate legal and institutional framework to enable the CONTRACTING PARTIES to carry out the work of expanding the trade of the less-developed countries was needed and that all aspects of this question should be urgently examined,

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The Ministers hereby Resolve that:

1. The CONTRACTING PARTIES do set up an Action Committee, firstly to assist them in the implementation of the Programme of Action and secondly as appropriate to initiate, process and co-ordinate further positive measures mentioned in the Conclusions adopted by Ministers (MIN(63)7) to help developing economies to strengthen their production potential and export capacity in order that the expansion of international trade may contribute to their economic development;
2. The Action Committee and other appropriate bodies of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in their further work shall take into account the measure of agreement reached on the Programme of Action and the views expressed by Ministers, as reflected in the Conclusions adopted by them; and
3. The Council of Representatives shall take the procedural steps necessary to establish the Action Committee referred to above and the Working Party and Committee referred to in paragraphs 24 and 30 respectively of the aforementioned Conclusions.