

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Preparatory Committee for
Trade Negotiations

DRAFT DECLARATION

Revision

1. The Ministers, having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations and having noted that a number of governments have decided to enter into comprehensive multilateral trade negotiations in the framework of GATT and that other governments have indicated their intention to make a decision as soon as possible, declare the negotiations officially open. Those governments which have decided to negotiate have notified the Director-General of GATT to this effect, and the Ministers agree that it will be open to any other government, through a notification to the Director-General, to join the negotiations. The Ministers hope that the negotiations will involve the active participation of as many countries as possible. /They expect the negotiations to be engaged effectively as rapidly as possible, and that, to that end, the governments concerned will have such authority as may be required./ /It is agreed that it is important for the rapid progress of the negotiations that all governments acquire any necessary authority as soon as possible./

2. The negotiations shall aim to:

- achieve the expansion and ever-greater liberalization of world trade and improvement in the standard of living and welfare of the people of the world, objectives which can be achieved, inter alia, through the progressive dismantling of obstacles to trade, the improvement of the international framework for the conduct of world trade [and through the achievement of a more national and more equitable international division of labour.]

- [provide] [search for] solutions to the trade problems of the developing countries, and to bring about both an improvement in the possibilities for these countries to participate in the expansion of world trade and a better balance, as between the developed and the developing countries, in the sharing of the advantages resulting from this expansion.]

- secure [set] additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries so as to [achieve] [permit] a substantial increase in their foreign exchange earnings; the diversification of their exports; the acceleration of the rate of growth of their trade; [an increase in their share of world trade;] [a substantial improvement in the conditions of access for their products; and] [stable, equitable and remunerative prices for primary products.]

To this end, co-ordinated efforts shall be made to solve in an equitable way the trade problems of all participating countries, taking into account the specific trade problems of the developing countries. [Complementary economic objectives related to the negotiations shall enable developing countries to derive maximum benefit from concessions granted in the trade field.]

3. The objectives of the negotiations in the agricultural sector shall be in harmony with the general objectives, but at the same time shall also take into account the special characteristics of agriculture.¹

¹See also paragraph 7.

4. The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the principles of mutual advantage, mutual commitment and overall reciprocity [among the developed countries and among the developing countries], while observing the most-favoured-nation clause, and consistently with the provisions of the General Agreement relating to such negotiations. Participants shall jointly endeavour in the negotiations to achieve, by appropriate methods, an overall balance of advantage at the highest possible level. The developed countries do not expect reciprocity for commitments made by them in the negotiations to reduce or remove tariff and other barriers to the trade of developing countries, i.e., the developed countries do not expect the developing countries, in the course of the trade negotiations, to make contributions which are inconsistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs. The Ministers recognize the continuing need for special measures to be taken to assist the developing countries in their efforts to increase their export earnings and promote their economic development. They also recognize the importance of maintaining and improving the Generalized System of Preferences. They further recognize the importance of the application of [preferential or differential treatment] [special measures] to developing countries in areas of the negotiation where this is feasible and appropriate.

5. The Ministers recognize that the particular situation and problems of the least developed among the developing countries and the land-locked developing countries shall be given special attention, and stress the need to ensure that these countries receive special treatment in the context of any general or specific measures taken in favour of the developing countries during the negotiations.

6. The Ministers recognize that international trade and monetary matters are interrelated and will bear in mind throughout the negotiations that the efforts in the trade field imply that prospects exist for the establishment of a durable and equitable monetary system just as they recognize that the establishment of a durable and equitable monetary system implies trade liberalization within an improved framework of trade relations.

OR

The Ministers recognize that international trade and monetary matters are interrelated and will bear in mind throughout the negotiations that the advantages to be expected from the trade negotiations can be realized in full only if an improved, more durable and equitable monetary system is established OR the advantages to be expected from the trade negotiations can best be realized in an improved, more durable and equitable monetary system just as they recognize that the realization of an improved, more durable and equitable monetary system implies trade liberalization within an improved framework for trade relations.

OR

The Ministers recognize that international trade and monetary matters are interrelated and that the forthcoming efforts in the trade field imply that concurrent efforts will continue in the monetary field aimed at the establishment of a durable and equitable monetary system.

7. The negotiations shall cover tariffs, non-tariff barriers and other measures which impede or distort international trade in both industrial and agricultural products, including tropical products and raw materials, whether in primary form or at any stage of processing including in particular products of export interest to developing countries and measures affecting their exports. [In the negotiations due account shall be taken of the specific characteristics of each class of products] [in particular the specific characteristics of agricultural products] [whether agricultural or industrial.]

8. The negotiations shall be considered as one undertaking, the various elements of which shall move forward together [priority being given to products and areas of interest to developing countries].

9. Support is reaffirmed for the principles, rules and disciplines provided for under the General Agreement. Consideration shall be given to improvements in the international framework for the conduct of world trade which might be desirable in the light of progress in the negotiations. Care shall be taken to ensure that any measures introduced as a result of any reform are consistent with the overall objectives and principles of the and considerations relating to the trade negotiations. Any change in the international framework for the conduct of international trade shall take full account of preferential or differential treatment for developing countries.

10. A Trade Negotiations Committee is established, with authority, taking into account the present Declaration, inter alia:

- (a) to elaborate and put into effect detailed trade negotiating plans and to establish appropriate negotiating procedures;
- (b) to supervise the progress of the negotiations.

The Trade Negotiations Committee shall be open to participating governments¹ all countries, whether or not contracting parties to the General Agreement and whether or not they have subscribed to the present Declaration, provided that at an appropriate time they express their wish to participate in the work of the Committee¹. The Trade Negotiations Committee shall hold its first organizational meeting not later than 1 November 1973.

11. The multilateral trade negotiations shall be concluded in 1975.

¹Pro memoria.