

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/249  
20 October 1976

Limited Distribution

---

Committee on Trade and Development  
Thirty-Second Session  
9-10 November 1976

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY THE SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### Note by the Secretariat

1. At its thirtieth session, the Committee on Trade and Development carried out a review of the technical assistance activities of the secretariat in connexion with the participation of developing countries in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The following paragraphs summarize the main activities of the secretariat in this respect since the time of the last report.
2. The country study programme, as mentioned previously in documents COM.TD/W/225 and COM.TD/W/237, has now been virtually completed. Thus, all developing countries participating in the negotiations which have requested studies have been provided with trade, tariff and non-tariff measures data to assist them in the identification of their negotiating interests in respect of different import markets, and in respect of the various trade barriers being taken up for negotiation. In response to requests from delegations, certain of this material is being updated or particular aspects elaborated.
3. The secretariat has continued to provide technical assistance in the field of tropical products. At the request of individual developing countries, technical assistance is being given by way of compiling relevant data to be used as background in consultations between offering and requesting countries in relation to the initial offers tabled in response to requests for concessions on tropical products. Assistance is also provided in making arrangements for consultations on tropical products.
4. At the request of delegations, the secretariat has prepared a system for the rapid evaluation of the implications of various tariff-cutting formulae for the exports of developing countries. Two sets of tabulations for each requesting developing country in respect of each developed country market have been made available: a summary tabulation illustrating the effects of selected formulae on tariffs and trade for groups of items covering GATT Chapters 25-99, Chapters 1-24 and Chapters 1-99, with supporting tabulations showing how individual items would be affected by different formulae. At their request, some thirty developing countries were provided with such tabulations. In addition, two groups of countries were also provided with this information. Some delegations have indicated that they would be requesting the preparation of supplementary tabulations on the basis of any

new formula or formulae which may be proposed in the Group "Tariffs". The secretariat is prepared to make available such supplementary studies on request when new proposals on tariff-cutting formulae are submitted,

5. As requested, the secretariat has prepared a study on the implications of the sector approach for copper in relation to the trade interests of developing countries, including their copper-based industries. A note on the technical feasibility of identifying tariff, non-tariff measures and trade flows affecting handicrafts as a product group has also been prepared. In addition, papers on wood and wood products and pulp and paper products have been updated.

6. The secretariat has prepared a technical assistance note for the purpose of assisting delegations of the least developed among the developing countries participating in the negotiations. This paper attempts to identify the main products of apparent export interest to the least developed countries along with data on tariffs and non-tariff measures affecting such products in developed country markets.

7. At the request of jute producing countries participating in the MTN, a restricted note was prepared on trade flows and commercial policies affecting jute and jute products. It also included a summary of developments in the MTN of relevance to jute. The note was intended as background material for a seminar of jute producing countries at which their approaches to negotiations on jute and jute products in the MTN were among the matters discussed.

8. Following requests from a number of developing countries a technical assistance note containing a summary of factual information on government procurement operations in developed countries based on material published by OECD was made available to developing countries participating in the MTN.

9. Technical assistance has been provided, on request, to developing countries in respect of the identification of tariff and non-tariff measures affecting agricultural products with a view to assisting developing countries concerned to make notifications in pursuance of the procedures of the Group "Agriculture".

10. Upon request, the services of officers of the GATT secretariat were made available for participation in MTN seminars held in Hong Kong under the auspices of the ESCAP/Commonwealth Secretariat and in Managua under the sponsorship of CECLA.

11. The secretariat has continued its activity of informing those delegations which do not have resident missions in Geneva of developments in different groups of the TNC and their sub-groups. The secretariat has also continued to provide

facilities to delegations for holding informal meetings for the exchange of views on various aspects of the negotiations.

12. It may be noted, in addition, that the secretariat has been responding to ad hoc requests by delegations of developing countries in connexion with particular aspects of commodity and other trade problems relevant to the multilateral trade negotiations.