

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/LLDC/4  
17 June 1981

Limited Distribution

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Sub-Committee on Trade of  
Least-developed Countries  
13 July 1981

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

At its initial meeting on 18 November 1980, the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries expressed broad agreement with proposals for the future work of the Sub-Committee, as reflected in the Annex of the note on proceedings of that meeting (COM.TD/LLDC/1). It is suggested that these proposals, listed below with their annotations, comprise the provisional agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

(i) Review of developments in international trade of relevance to the trade of least-developed countries

This might provide an opportunity for the Sub-Committee to review recent developments in commercial policy, points relating to the implementation of the Tokyo Round, activities in other GATT bodies, as well as in other international organizations etc. of relevance specifically to the trade interests of least-developed countries so as to obtain an overall perspective of the situation for these countries.

(ii) Review of measures taken in favour of least-developed countries

Countries might be invited to report on measures that have been taken or are being envisaged to provide least-developed countries with special treatment as referred to in the Sub-Committee's terms of reference.<sup>1</sup> This activity in the Sub-Committee could form part of the overall review of the operation of the Enabling Clause by the parent body (the Committee on Trade and Development) being focused specifically on the interests of least-developed countries.

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<sup>1</sup>The substantive part of the Sub-Committee's terms of reference provide:

"In the light of paragraph 6 of the Tokyo Declaration, to give special attention to the particular situation and trade problems of the least-developed among the developing countries in GATT's work programme following the Tokyo Round, including that relating to the results of the multilateral trade negotiations, and to keep under review the special treatment which could be accorded these countries in the context of any general or specific measures taken in favour of developing countries." (COM.TD/105, para. 44)

Delegations might wish to inform the Sub-Committee of any commercial policy actions taken in the light of the interests of the least-developed countries in addition to those mentioned in the secretariat background note (see below) and those referred to in earlier documentation for the Sub-Committee.

(iii) Export interests of the least-developed countries

The consideration of this item could be based on a secretariat background note providing statistical as well as tariff and trade information on selected items exported by individual least-developed countries and showing developed country markets and the commercial policy applied. Least-developed countries could also be invited to notify additional products of export interest. Particular points relating to the application of the non-tariff measure agreements of relevance to the least-developed countries could also be raised. The object would be to identify continuing barriers to the exports of least-developed countries for discussion, comments and suggestions in the Sub-Committee, as a contribution to work in the Sub-Committee itself or in other contexts on the question of possibilities for further trade liberalization.

(iv) Secretariat assistance

The Technical Co-operation Division in particular is available to provide, upon request, technical assistance to developing countries including the least developed among them. Delegations may have comments and suggestions to offer with respect to this work in the light of the particular interests of the least-developed countries.

(v) Other matters

It would remain open to the Sub-Committee to take up, within its terms of reference, any other matters relevant to GATT's work raised by members of the Sub-Committee, which have a bearing on the trade interests of the least-developed countries.

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The secretariat is circulating two background documents to serve as a basis for the work of the Sub-Committee. COM.TD/W/LLDC/2 is intended to provide information with respect to items (i), (ii) and (iv) listed above and COM.TD/W/LLDC/3 to provide details for the consideration of item (iii).

The Sub-Committee might find it convenient to pursue its work along the same lines, namely the reviews provided for in items (i), (ii) and (iv) with such comments and suggestions as delegations might wish to put forward as one element and the consideration of item (iii) dealing with tariffs and non-tariff measures relevant to the export interests of least-developed countries as the other element.