

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## RELATIONS BETWEEN GATT AND UNCTAD

### Export Promotion

#### Note by the Director-General

1. Contracting parties will recall that, at the twenty-third session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, I referred to the question of relations between the GATT and UNCTAD (SR.23/10). Since that time there have been frequent discussions between the two secretariats, and between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and myself, on matters of common concern to both organizations. I shall be reporting to the forthcoming session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on this subject generally.
2. This note reports on the outcome of discussions I have had with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on a particular field of activity, namely export promotion. This, it has seemed to me, is an area which would logically present an immediate opportunity for combined action by the two organizations and avoid the possibility of a wasteful duplication of effort and resources.
3. The GATT Trade Centre was established, at the request of developing countries, by a Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 19 March 1964 and came into operation in May 1964. The Centre's task is to provide developing countries with information on export markets and marketing and to help them develop their export promotion services and train the personnel required for these services. In this connexion it may also be noted that the CONTRACTING PARTIES are committed, through Article XXXVIII(e) of Part IV of the General Agreement, to the provision of such services. The Centre's facilities are available to all developing countries, whether they are contracting parties to GATT or not. An Advisory Group of experts meets annually to review the Centre's activities over the preceding year and to make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES about the Centre's future activities. The report on the Group's last meeting, held in June 1967, is contained in document L/2807.
4. The promotion of the exports of developing countries is also an important preoccupation of UNCTAD. This is reflected in certain recommendations of the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in resolution 31(IV) concerning technical assistance in trade and related fields adopted by the UNCTAD Board in September 1966, and, further, in some of the documentation before the current fifth session of the Board (TD/B/120 paragraphs 76 and 77 and TD/B/134 paragraphs 67 to 75).

5. Other bodies and organizations within the United Nations system are also engaged in work related to export promotion; among these are UNIDO, UNDP and FAO.

6. At a meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions in New York in January 1967, the decision was reached to combine the activities and resources of the various United Nations bodies and organizations concerned in a joint United Nations programme for the promotion of exports from developing countries. At the forty-third session of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, held in Geneva in April 1967, I welcomed the opportunity to co-ordinate the trade promotion activities of GATT with the broader programme to be developed within the United Nations system. At a further meeting of the Executive Secretaries in Geneva in July 1967, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and myself, as a follow-up to our earlier discussions on the subject, informed the meeting of our agreement to examine the possibility of combining the resources of our two organizations in a joint International Trade Centre within the United Nations Export Promotion Programme.

7. This examination has now been carried to a point where the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and I feel that we can submit concrete proposals for the consideration of our respective governing bodies, in the hope that these arrangements may be put into effect on 1 January 1968. These proposals follow below. They are being submitted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD (document TD/B/133/Add.1) to the current fifth session of the Trade and Development Board.

#### Joint International Trade Centre

I. Within the United Nations Export Promotion Programme, in which UNCTAD and GATT are participating, there would be established a joint International Trade Centre, for the purpose of assisting the export promotion efforts of the developing countries by:

- (a) providing trade information;
- (b) providing trade promotion advisory services;
- (c) arranging training in export promotion;
- (d) undertaking studies on specific aspects of trade promotion and marketing;
- (e) providing substantive support for export promotion projects financed under United Nations technical co-operation programmes.

II. The Centre would be headed by a Director appointed by agreement between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of GATT. In the discharge of his duties, the Director would act under the joint guidance of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of GATT, who would each designate a senior officer from their respective staffs to assist them for this purpose.

III. An annual report on the Centre's activities would be submitted to the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD and to the CONTRACTING PARTIES of GATT, who would make appropriate recommendations and take appropriate steps for provision of budgetary resources for the programme recommended. The Trade and Development Board and the CONTRACTING PARTIES may wish to establish a joint advisory group consisting of government experts.<sup>1</sup> This group would meet annually to review the activities of the Centre and formulate recommendations to the governing bodies. The report on the Centre would also be made available to the co-ordinating body of the United Nations Export Promotion Programme.

IV. The budget of the Centre would be shared between UNCTAD and GATT.

V. The operational activities of the Centre would be financed primarily through technical co-operation projects requested by governments under the United Nations technical assistance programmes and through voluntary contributions to the Centre in the form of money and services.

VI. In addition to its own resources, the Centre would rely to the fullest extent possible on the existing staff and facilities of the United Nations, UNCTAD and GATT.

VII. Administrative and financial arrangements would be worked out jointly and kept as flexible as possible to ensure the most expeditious and efficient operation of the Centre. Newly recruited professional staff for the Centre would be appointed by agreement between UNCTAD and GATT.

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<sup>1</sup>It should be noted that the programme of work of the present GATT International Trade Centre is established on the basis of recommendations made by an advisory Group as referred to in paragraph 3.