

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5101

21 January 1981

Limited Distribution

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Committee on Government Procurement

## MEETING OF 15 JANUARY 1981

### Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee elected Mr. V. Segalla (Austria) as Chairman and Mr. T.H. Chau (Hong Kong) as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Committee adopted a text, based on the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 28 November 1979 (L/4905), providing for the participation of observers (Annex I).
3. The Committee adopted a text providing procedures for the accession of contracting parties to the Agreement (Annex II).
4. The Committee noted that the question of accession to the Agreement of countries which are not contracting parties to the GATT could be taken up at a later stage when a particular case presented itself.
5. The Committee agreed on the procedures for circulation and derestriction of its documents.
6. Parties which had not yet done so were invited to nominate as soon as possible persons who would be available for serving on panels, in accordance with Article VII:8 of the Agreement.
7. The Committee heard statements on steps taken to implement and administer the Agreement. The Committee agreed on the modalities for the submission of information on national laws, regulations and procedures relating to government procurement which Parties should present as soon as possible.
8. The Committee agreed on the modalities for the implementation of the requirements concerning annual statistics provided for in Article VI:9 and matters pertaining to exchange rate questions in relation to the threshold requirement in Article I:1(b) of the Agreement.
9. The Committee noted a declaration relating to the acceptance of the Agreement by some delegations circulated as MTN/NTM/70 and adopted a decision concerning this matter.

10. A preliminary exchange of views was held on a number of matters. It was agreed that they would be reverted to at the next meeting of the Committee.

11. The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in the period of 8-10 April, the precise date to be established by the Chairman in consultation with the Parties.

ANNEX I

PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS

Taking into account the decision arrived at by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session on 28 November 1979, (document L/4905) the Committee agreed on the following procedures for the participation of observers:

1. Representatives of contracting parties which are not signatories may follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
2. Representatives of non-signatory countries not contracting parties, which participated in the multilateral trade negotiations and which are interested in following the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity, should communicate a request to the Director-General of the GATT indicating their desire to do so. The Committee shall decide on each request.
3. Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by Signatories.
4. The Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.
5. The Committee may invite, as appropriate, international organizations to follow particular issues of the Committee in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international organizations to follow particular issues within the Committee in an observer capacity shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.

ANNEX II

ACCESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

1. A contracting party interested in accession according to Article IX:1(b) would communicate its interest to the Director-General, submitting relevant information, including an offer by way of a list of entities having regard to the relevant provisions of the Agreement, in particular Article I and, where appropriate, Article III.
2. The communication would be circulated to Parties to the Agreement.
3. The contracting party interested in accession would hold consultations with the Parties on the terms for its accession to the Agreement.
4. Upon completion of the consultations and a decision by the Committee agreeing to the terms of accession including the list of entities, the acceding contracting party would deposit with the Director-General to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT an instrument of accession which states the terms so agreed. The text of the acceding contracting party's list of entities in English, French and Spanish would be annexed to the Agreement.