

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Committee on Import Licensing

Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

PROCEDURES FOR ACCESSION OF NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

Note by the Secretariat

1. This note takes paragraphs 10 and 11 of the document numbered TBT/W/4, LIC/W/2, SCM/W/2 and ADP/W/2 and puts these into operational form.

2. It is suggested that each Committee established under an MTN Agreement should adopt a set of procedures for the accession of non-contracting parties, and standard terms for such accession.

3. Procedures

3.1 A government which is not a contracting party and which wishes to accede to an Agreement resulting from the Multilateral Trade Negotiations should inform the Chairman of the relevant Committee of this fact.¹ It should indicate its willingness to accept the standard terms for accession (see Annex). If it wishes these terms to be modified it should indicate the modifications which it seeks and the reasons for proposing these.

3.2 The Committee would examine the request with the acceding government.

3.3 The Committee would determine whether that government could accede on the standard terms of accession or whether any modifications are considered necessary. The Committee would then adopt a decision containing the terms that would apply in the particular case under examination. The text of a draft Decision embodying the standard terms of accession is annexed.

3.4 The applicant government would then deposit with the Director-General a letter, referring to the Decision of the Committee, in which it accepted the agreed terms. The accession would become effective thirty days after this letter is received.

¹With a copy to the GATT secretariat.

ANNEX

Draft Decision

The Committee on ... decides as follows:

1. The Government of ... may become a Party to the Agreement on ... on the terms set out below.
2. The Government of ... shall not nullify or impair, directly or indirectly, advantages which accrue to other Parties under the Agreement by taking action which, had it been a contracting party to the GATT, it would have been debarred from taking by virtue of its GATT obligations.
3. The Parties to the Agreement on ... shall not nullify or impair, directly or indirectly, advantages which accrue to the Government of ... under the Agreement by taking action which they would be debarred from taking by virtue of their GATT obligations, had the Government of ... been a contracting party to the GATT.