

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6409

7 October 1988

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL  
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### SRI LANKA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

The following communication dated 6 October 1988 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka with the request that it be circulated to the contracting parties and considered by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the next meeting of the Council.

In accordance with the decision of the Customs Co-operation Council that the CCCN be replaced by the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) on 1 January 1988, the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to implement the Harmonized System on 1 January 1989.

The Government of Sri Lanka is in the final stage of completing the transposition of its Customs Tariff from the CCCN to the Harmonized System. Once this has been completed, the Harmonized System documentation required under the procedures of Article XXVIII will be prepared on a priority basis and will be circulated to the contracting parties as soon as possible. Sri Lanka wishes to emphasize that in the process of conversion, it will be ensured that no change in the tariff rates of bound items, the Initial Negotiating Rights or the product descriptions will take place. However, Sri Lanka is prepared to enter into consultations with any interested contracting parties. In view of the time constraint, it will not be possible for Sri Lanka to conduct consultations under the procedures of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement before the scheduled date of implementation.

In order to enable Sri Lanka to implement the Harmonized System on 1 January 1989, Sri Lanka therefore requests a temporary exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1989.