

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6602

22 December 1989

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meeting of 23 November 1989

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee held its thirty-third meeting on 23 November 1989.
2. Under the agenda item on statements on implementation and administration of the Agreement, the Committee was informed by one Party about its use of international standards and its participation in the activities of international standards organizations. One Party drew attention to another Party's failure to notify a proposed labelling requirement on a product of interest to its country.
3. In connection with procedures for information exchange, the Committee agreed to make certain amendments to the notification format and guidelines (TBT/16/Rev.4).
4. The Committee discussed a proposal introduced by the delegation of India relating to the provision of translations of specific documents into one of the working GATT languages at the request of developing country Parties (TBT/W/129). Parties generally viewed this proposal favourably. However, some Parties noted that any future arrangements in this respect would cause increased workload and financial burden for Parties that did not use one of the GATT working languages as their official language.
5. The Committee had an exchange of views on the proposal by the United States on improved transparency in bilateral standards-related agreements (TBT/W/128). Several Parties made comments regarding the extension of the notification procedures to standards-related agreements concluded between Parties and the provisions relating to consultations with other Parties.
6. On the subject of conformity assessment, the Committee took note of further detailed comments made by a number of Parties on the proposal by the Nordic countries on testing and inspection procedures (TBT/W/126) and the proposals by the United States on product approval procedures (TBT/W/127). It heard a brief introduction by the United States concerning its proposal on systems for the accreditation or approval of testing laboratories, inspection or quality system registration bodies (TBT/W/133).
7. The Committee continued its discussion on the various elements of the code of good practice for non-governmental bodies proposed by the delegation of the European Economic Community (TBT/W/126).

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8. The Committee took note of a statement by the delegation of New Zealand introducing their proposal on processes and production methods (PPMs) which suggested certain specific changes in the Agreement in order to incorporate PPMs within its scope and to make its coverage of the PPMs clearer (TBT/W/132).

9. The Committee held its tenth annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 15:8 on the basis of the following background documentation: TBT/31 and Suppl.1; TBT/W/25/Rev.12, TBT/W/31/Rev.7 and Corr.1 and TBT/W/62/Rev.1 and Corrs. 1-4. and adopted its report (1989) to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.