

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6600

22 December 1989

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

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### COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Meetings of 16 June and 19 September 1989

#### Noce by the Chairman

1. The Committee held its thirty-first and thirty-second meetings respectively on 16 June and 19 September 1989.

2. At its thirty-second meeting, the Committee heard a statement by one Party which emphasized the importance attached to the development and adoption of international standards by the relevant authorities in the country of this Party.

3. The Committee continued its discussion of the proposals regarding the improvement, clarification and expansion of the Agreement in the area of conformity assessment. At its thirty-second meeting, the Committee took note of the revised submission by the Nordic countries on testing and inspection procedures (TBT/W/126) which was presented in the form of suggested amendments to Article 5 of the Agreement. The Committee noted that this proposal made reference to the draft definitions relating to conformity assessment prepared by the ISO/CASCO Ad Hoc Group on Definitions in order to illustrate the meaning of the terms used in the proposal and to assist Parties in understanding the relevant concepts. Also in connection with this proposal it heard comments by various Parties regarding the criteria for the use of international recommendations and guides as a basis for testing and inspection procedures in Parties. At this meeting, the Committee took note of a revised proposal by the United States on product approval procedures which was proposed as a new article of the Agreement (TBT/W/127). It heard comments and questions by Parties on the different provisions of this proposal.

4. At its thirty-first meeting, the Committee heard an exchange of views on the revised proposal by the Nordic countries which suggested the incorporation of certain recommendations of the Committee relating to the improvement of transparency under the relevant provisions of the Agreement (TBT/W/120/Rev.1). At the thirty-second meeting the Committee heard further comments relating to the proposed provisions in this proposal as regards the timing of notifications and the designation of an authority responsible for the implementation of the notification procedures. On the subject of improving transparency the delegation of the United States introduced a revised proposal on improved transparency in bilateral standards-related agreements which suggested to include additional provisions under the existing Articles 2, 5, 7, and 10 of the Agreement (TBT/W/128). Several Parties had questions and comments on the provisions in this proposal relating to consultations.

5. At its thirty-second meeting, the Committee took note of the proposal on a code of good practice for non-governmental bodies introduced by the delegation of the European Economic Community (TBT/W/126). Preliminary comments made by several Parties as regards the specific provisions of the proposed code reflected the views of interested bodies in their countries .

6. At the thirty-first meeting, the delegation of the United States presented a draft definition of the term "processes and production methods" (TBT/W/108/Add.1).

7. At the thirty-second meeting, the Committee took note of statements by the delegations of the United States and the European Economic Community concerning the United States case against the EC Animal Hormone Directive (85/649/EEC).

8. At its thirty-first meeting, the Committee heard an oral report by the Vice-Chairman on an informal gathering of persons responsible for information exchange held on 22 May 1989. In the light of the conclusions in that report and on the basis of a proposal by the Nordic countries (TBT/W/125), the Committee agreed to make an amendment to the decision on format and guidelines for the notification sheet (TBT/16/Rev.4).

9. At its thirty-first meeting, the Committee heard a presentation by the observer from the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission on a document entitled "Relations with the GATT Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade and the GATT Negotiations Group on Agriculture" (ALINORM 89/10) prepared for the eighteenth session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held on 3-12 July 1989. It also took note of the views expressed by several Parties on the question of avoidance of duplication in terms of Article 13.3 of the Agreement.