

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development

Seventy-First Session

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DURING THE URUGUAY ROUND

Note by the Secretariat

1. The technical cooperation programme and activities of the GATT Secretariat have been periodically reviewed by the Committee on Trade and Development. At its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions, the Committee discussed the work of the Secretariat in this area on the basis of documents COM.TD/W/483 and COM.TD/W/488. The former document outlined the technical assistance since the start of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

2. The following paragraphs give a brief description of technical assistance activities of the Secretariat since the beginning of 1991.

Data, information and background notes

3. The secretariat continued to provide to delegations of developing countries data on trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures needed for consultations and negotiations. Background information and factual notes on specific issues in the negotiations were also provided upon request of delegations. In this process, special attention was given to the technical assistance requirements of least-developed countries. The Technical Cooperation Division also continued to brief delegations and officials on developments in different areas of the negotiations.

Country missions and seminars

4. Since the beginning of the year, the Technical Cooperation Division organized eleven country missions and seminars in different countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is expected that six or seven more may be organized before the end of the year.

Regional workshops

5. Two sub-regional workshops on tariff negotiations took place in September. The first one was in Dakar for French-speaking African countries, and the second one in Nairobi for the English-speaking African countries. Both workshops were organized with the financial assistance of the Government of Finland.

6. A specialized seminar on GATT and negotiations on maritime transport services was held in September in Abidjan for West and Central African countries.

Briefing session

7. Also in September, the Technical Cooperation Division organized a three-day briefing session for African developing countries and for least-developed countries on the latest developments in the Uruguay Round.

Training course on GATT Dispute Settlement

- Procedures and Practices

8. The second English training course on GATT dispute settlement procedures and practices was organized by the Technical Cooperation Division in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Division from 30 September to 4 October 1991, at the Centre William Rappard. The seminar, which consisted of both lectures and practical exercises, was attended by some thirty experts from nineteen (both developed and developing) contracting parties. Training courses in French and Spanish might be organized later.