

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

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TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

United States

Arrangements for Second Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairman

1. The United States was initially reviewed by the Council in December 1989. Along with Australia and Morocco, it was one of the first three contracting parties to come under the Trade Policy Review Mechanism. As the United States is one of the four trading entities subject to review every two years, this is the first of the "second reviews".

2. The purpose of a second review is principally to assess the evolution and direction of the trade policies and practices of the party under review in the period since the first review took place. The discussion should therefore focus principally on how the United States' trade policies and practices have developed since the first review in 1989.

3. The structure of the debate will, as in other cases, cover two main themes, one more general and one more specific. Participants are, however, invited to make one statement, which should, if possible, be clearly divided according to the two themes. The following is a general guide to subjects which might be covered:-

(i) Changes in the general economic environment and objectives in relation to the United States' trade policies, including: the evolution of the United States' economy; macro-economic policies and their effects; the development of the United States' general policy approach toward multilateral and regional trade liberalization, including the Uruguay Round, the Canada-United States Free Trade Area, the NAFTA negotiations, the Andean Trade Preference Act and the "Enterprise for the Americas".

(ii) Changes in the use of trade and trade-related measures and policies, including: the effects of CUSFTA and expected effects of NAFTA on trade with third parties; trends in m.f.n. and GSP treatment; actions taken in the light of GATT panel recommendations; the use of safeguard and other substitute measures, including VERs and OMAs; developments in the fields of anti-dumping and countervailing measures; changes in agricultural trade policies, including under the 1990 Farm Act; other sectoral concerns, including developments in steel, textiles and clothing, shipbuilding, semi-conductors and machine tools; questions relating to bilateral trade policies.