

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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COUNCIL

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

India

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairman of the Council

1. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism¹, a special Council meeting is scheduled for 19-20 October 1993 to conduct the first review of the trade policies and practices of India (GATT/AIR/3494). This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings. In this connection, attention is also drawn to the note on procedures circulated on 30 April 1993.²

(i) **Questions in writing in advance of the meeting**

2. Contracting parties may give advance notice in writing of the points they wish to be raised at the review meeting. This will not limit in any way the scope of discussions at special Council meetings.³ It would be appreciated if any such points could be in the hands of the Secretariat by Tuesday, 12 October 1993. These will be made available to the Council at the beginning of the meeting.

(ii) **Discussants**

3. The Decision establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism provides that, in consultation with the contracting party or parties under review, the Chairman of the Council may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the review body.

4. Following such consultations, Ms. Anne Stoddart and Mr. Armando F. Ortega will act as discussants for India. A document summarizing the main points to be raised by the discussants will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

¹BISD 36S/403.

²L/7208.

³C/M/236.

(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews undertaken at special Council meetings cover four broad headings:
- (a) appreciation of the full range of the contracting party's trade policies and practices;
 - (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs and the external environment;
 - (c) impact of the contracting party's trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
 - (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.⁴

As noted in L/7208, the discussion on the second morning will be based on a number of main themes identified by the Chairman, discussants and Secretariat with India after the opening meeting.

(iv) Documentation and press arrangements

6. The reports submitted by India and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

C/RM/G/40	Report by the Government of India
C/RM/S/40	Report by the Secretariat

7. The press embargo for the review of India will end at 13.00 gmt (2 p.m. Geneva time) on Wednesday, 20 October 1993. The Secretariat will arrange a briefing on the Council's discussions.

(v) Minutes

8. Minutes of the meeting, drawn up by the Secretariat, will be circulated promptly after the meeting. They will subsequently be published together with the reports by the Government and by the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by the contracting party under review after the special Council meeting

9. In the course of the discussions at the review meeting, the contracting party under review may indicate that it intends to provide supplementary information in writing on specific points raised during the session. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate this information to all contracting parties. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

⁴C/W/607.