

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

It is the understanding of the secretariat that the attached text reflects the present state of thinking of certain delegations on a multilateral agricultural framework.

It is circulated in order to facilitate further discussions.

MULTILATERAL AGRICULTURAL FRAMEWORK

The participating countries recognize:

that agriculture plays a prominent rôle in the economic growth of each country, and especially that of the developing countries;

that each country pursues agricultural policies designed to provide for an equitable and stable income for its farmers and a dependable and affordable supply of food and agricultural products for its consumers;

that trade in agricultural products is of ever-increasing importance in view of the growing interdependence between countries and between different agricultural markets; and

that closer international co-operation for the benefit of developed and developing countries alike could enhance the ability of individual countries to fulfil their national objectives related to their farm sectors and food consumers.

Therefore it is agreed that signatories will work toward an improved level of international co-operation in their efforts:

- to enhance world food security;
- to manage agricultural policies in a manner that does not adversely affect international trade and which provides for the expansion of trade in agricultural products on an equitable and balanced basis, as well as stabilization of prices;

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- to improve efficiency in the utilization of world agricultural resources and the adjustment of production to underlying conditions of supply and demand;
- to foster the growth of national agricultural incomes;
- to consider agricultural policies in relation to prevailing economic and social conditions;
- to ensure that policies reflect in a coherent and consistent way the interrelationship between different sectors of agriculture; and
- to ensure the efficient functioning of international commodity agreements.

The signatories also agree without prejudice to GATT rights and obligations and with the purpose of reinforcing the GATT system:

to establish under the aegis of GATT an International Agriculture Consultative Council to provide for regular consultations and closer international co-operation in matters concerning domestic farm and food policies and the development of international trade in agriculture;

to notify any changes in these policies in advance of such changes whenever possible;

to identify problems and their causes and seek appropriate remedies;

to provide to other members of the Council on a timely basis relevant data on production, consumption, prices, stocks, and international trade in agricultural products; measures affecting trade in agricultural products; and to permit a review of these elements as they relate to the objectives of this framework;

to follow the implementation of all international agreements concluded in the course of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.