

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Multilateral Trade NegotiationsGroup "Sector Approach"MEETING OF APRIL 1976Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Group held its fourth meeting on 6-7 April 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer. At the end of the meeting the Chairman, on his own responsibility, summed-up the discussions as follows.
2. The Group addressed itself to the paper circulated by the delegation of Canada on possible elements of an agreement to liberalize trade in copper products (MTN/SEC/W/7). The delegation of Canada elaborated further on the elements and scope of the proposal it had put forward and explained the objectives it is intended to serve. The text of the Canadian statement was circulated as MTN/SEC/W/15. Some delegations raised a number of points with respect to the Canadian statement covering the choice of copper for sector negotiations and the implications of the proposals made for other areas of the negotiations. These delegations stated that the basic approach of their countries to the use of the sector approach as a complementary technique in the negotiations had been explained at previous meetings of the Group. Some delegations of developing countries, while indicating a positive interest in the sector approach more specifically in relation to the non-ferrous metals sector considered that the implications for their own trade and the possibilities of differential treatment would need to be examined in greater detail. The representative of Canada responded in greater detail to the observations made by members of the Group.
3. The Group agreed that the secretariat study the implications of the sector approach for copper in relation to the trade interests of developing countries, including their copper based industries.
4. One delegation envisaged that it would be proposing, at the appropriate time, negotiations in respect of a certain number of sectors.

5. The Group took note of the additional information requested from the secretariat on the ores and metals sector in order to permit a fuller analysis of the pilot study. The Group heard a statement by one delegation concerning international trade in steel. This delegation indicated that it intended to put a proposal with regard to this sector before the Group at the appropriate time. One delegation indicated its strong apprehension in respect of the statement made on steel and was of the view that steel should not be taken up in the context of the sector approach. Some other delegations expressed doubts as to the appropriateness of sector negotiations for steel.

6. The Group noted the additional background information contained in document MTN/SEC/W/2, Add.1 and 2 concerning wood and wood products and pulp and paper products, possible sectors of interest to developing countries. In referring to the work proceeding in their capitals on sectors, some delegations of developing countries indicated that they might ask the Group to take up for examination, at the appropriate time, other sectors of interest to developing countries. The Group agreed that the secretariat should proceed with a study on the technical feasibility of identifying tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade flows affecting handicrafts as a product group.

7. The Group took note of the progress in the collection of data which had been initiated by the secretariat with respect to sectors not so far taken up in the Group.

8. The Group agreed that at its next meeting it would revert to the points taken up at the present meeting in the light of the comments and proposals made and the additional documentation to be provided by the secretariat.

9. The Group agreed that it would hold its next meeting preferably immediately after the summer recess, the exact date to be determined by the Chairman in consultation with interested delegations and the secretariat.