

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Group "Sector Approach"

MEETING OF 9 APRIL 1979

Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 9 April 1979. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer.
2. In recalling the objectives of the Group as set out in Paragraph 3(c) of the Tokyo Declaration, the Chairman referred to the considerable amount of technical information which had been provided to delegations by the secretariat as background material on specific sectors, including a number of sectors of particular interest to developing countries.
3. One member of the Group stressed the importance his government had attached to the sector approach as a means of dealing with measures affecting trade in certain resource-based sectors. He regretted that, although some of the objectives sought by his government in relation to tariffs, non-tariff measures and other areas including consultation and dispute settlement had been achieved under other headings of the negotiations, the aims it had hoped for in sector negotiations had not been attained. This had adversely affected the possibility of his country offering concessions in certain areas, particularly in relation to export measures. He believed that the sector approach should be kept in mind for any possible future negotiations on trade in resource-based products as an effective way of achieving positive results.
4. The Chairman considered that the Group "Sector Approach" had carried its work as far as it could and he would report to the Trade Negotiations Committee accordingly.