

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/TAR/W/4/Rev.1
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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tariffs"

CHECKLIST OF POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A TARIFF NEGOTIATING PLAN

Note by the Secretariat

Revision

At its meeting on 7-10 July 1975 the Group agreed that the secretariat, on its responsibility, should prepare a revised version of document MTN/TAR/W/4 which would constitute a part of the agenda for the next meeting of the Group.

In accordance with this decision the secretariat has drawn up, on the basis of the discussions in the Group, the following revised checklist of possible elements which might be included in a tariff negotiating plan. The checklist is drawn up on the understanding that it is not exhaustive, that it does not indicate priorities, that it is without prejudice to the position of any delegation, and that delegations would be free to add additional points to the list.

I. Choice of tariff cutting technique or techniques

1. Linear technique - offers made in accordance with a general rule providing for equal cuts by different participants.
2. Harmonization technique - offers made in accordance with a general rule under which the higher the tariff the deeper the cut.
3. Item-by-item technique - bilateral request lists followed by bilateral offer lists.
4. Combination of above techniques.
5. Question of built-in differentiator applied to tariff reduction vis-à-vis developing countries.
6. Techniques or modalities to ensure improvement of conditions for access of products from developing countries to the markets of developed countries.
7. Special procedures for negotiations between developed and developing countries.

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II. Issues directly related to the tariff reductions

1. Depth of reduction (including the possibility of deeper cuts for products of export interest to developing countries).
2. Basis for reduction (base rates, base date).
3. Problems concerning comparison between duties based on various methods of customs valuation.
4. Implications of MFN tariff reductions on the Generalized System of Preferences and ways and means of maintaining and improving the GSP.
5. Treatment of low duties (cutting to zero, fixing of threshold duties).
6. Tariff disparities..
7. Tariff escalation.
8. Staging of cuts including advance implementation of tariff reductions to products of export interest to developing countries.

III. Increased degree of tariff bindings

IV. Exceptions

1. General principles and particular ones for developing countries.
2. Date of tabling and circulation of lists of exceptions.
3. Limitations to exceptions (adoption of a ceiling, e.g. a certain percentage of all imports).
4. Justification, confrontation and multilateral surveillance.
5. Ways of excluding from exceptions products of export interest to developing countries.
6. Implication of possible exceptions by the large trading partners on trade of smaller developed countries.

V. Link with negotiations on particular non-tariff measures

VI. Countries to be exempted from the obligation to implement a general formula