

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/41

14 March 1978

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

MEETING OF MARCH 1978

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met from 8-10 March 1978.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
3. In the same way as at its last session, it invited the Central Secretariat of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Central Office of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to attend this session of the Sub-Group in an expert capacity.
4. The Sub-Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/141).
5. The Sub-Group had before it MTN/NTM/W/119 containing the text of the Draft Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade and MTN/NTM/W/120 and Add.1 setting out the points before the Sub-Group. It also had before it a synoptic table of proposals on sections 19 and 21 of the Draft Code (MTN/NTM/W/130) and proposals from certain delegations (MTN/NTM/W/135 and 138).
6. The Sub-Group discussed the subject of special and differential treatment for developing countries. It noted that there were many proposals before it in this area and that others might be tabled in the very near future. It was therefore suggested that an attempt should be made to draw up a single document which might serve as an agenda for further work in this area.
7. The Sub-Group also surveyed proposals on sections of the Draft Code relating to institutions and dispute settlement. It agreed to insert the synoptic table of proposals on these sections in a revision of the document setting out the points before the Sub-Group. It also agreed to circulate an outline regarding institutions, consultations, dispute settlement and surveillance in the Draft Code (MTN/NTM/W/144).

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8. The Sub-Group then discussed the proposal of the European Communities relating to levels of obligation (MTN/NTM/W/135). It was suggested that informal consultations should be continued on this proposal. It was also suggested that delegations might exchange information informally on the way in which they intended to implement the second level of obligation contained in the Draft Code.

9. The Sub-Group examined a number of proposals and agreed that a number of these should be inserted in the text of the Draft Code.

10. The Chairman suggested that delegations should continue their informal contacts with a view to raising proposals again in the Sub-Group when they had reason to believe that progress could be made.

11. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting should be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations, bearing in mind the fact that the Sub-Group should be considered in permanent session and callable at short notice.