

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/42

23 March 1978

Special Distribution

## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

#### Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

## MEETING OF MARCH 1978

### Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 20 and 21 March 1978.
2. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer.
3. The Sub-Group noted the communications received from the Chairmen of other Groups and Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/145).
4. The Sub-Group had before it in document MTN/NTM/W/133 issued in December 1977, a draft integrated text for negotiation on government procurement. The meeting focused its attention on the draft elements contained in the document and additional proposals circulated in documents MTN/NTM/W/146, MTN/NTM/W/147, and MTN/NTM/W/148.
5. A number of delegations made statements of a general nature regarding the approach of their countries to negotiations on government procurement. Members of the Sub-Group also made comments and suggestions on various parts of the draft integrated text and it was agreed that these comments and suggestions would need to be taken into account as the work in the Sub-Group proceeded and in bilateral and plurilateral consultations between interested delegations. In particular, attention was given to questions relating to enforcement of obligations and information and to a number of other matters including special and differential treatment for developing countries in the field of government procurement.
6. Noting the status of MTN/NTM/W/133 as a working document and that its contents did not prejudice the position of any delegation in any area of the multilateral trade negotiations, the Sub-Group agreed that it should be revised

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essentially by replacing the existing Part VII with the proposals contained in MTN/NTM/W/146. The Sub-Group agreed that certain comments made in the course of the meeting, and some additional proposals to be put forward in writing by delegations with respect to this matter could be taken up when it resumed its discussions on the draft integrated text as well as in bilateral and plurilateral consultations.

7. The Sub-Group agreed that participants having particular points or suggestions to make on other sections of MTN/NTM/W/133 should be invited to submit them in writing to the secretariat preferably in the form of draft proposals, for circulation as soon as possible so that they might also be taken up in consultations between interested delegations and in the Sub-Group.

8. It was agreed that bilateral and plurilateral consultations between interested delegations should be continued and intensified with a view to making maximum possible progress on the draft text and any additional proposals that delegations might put forward over the coming weeks. At its next meeting, the Sub-Group would focus its attention on the revised draft integrated text for negotiation on government procurement and such other proposals as may be presented by delegations with a view to resolving as many of the outstanding issues as possible.

9. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting should be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations, it being understood that in the light of the present stage of the negotiations, the Sub-Group could be convened at short notice if considered desirable.