

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

MEETING OF JUNE 1978

Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 12 and 13 June 1978.
2. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer.
3. For the purpose of pursuing the negotiations on government procurement, the Sub-Group had before it a revised version of the draft integrated text issued as MTN/NTM/W/133/Rev.1. A number of suggestions with respect to the draft integrated text put forward recently by certain delegations in documents MTN/NTM/W/152, 153, 155, 158, 159 and 160 were also before the Sub-Group. It was noted that since the last meeting, bilateral and plurilateral consultations on matters covered by the draft integrated text had taken place between a number of interested participants.
4. Members of the Sub-Group made comments and suggestions on various parts of the draft integrated text. In particular, the Sub-Group had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the question of special and differential treatment for developing countries, both in terms of substance and on the placement of provisions dealing with this subject in the integrated text. The discussion reflected the general recognition that government procurement was an area where special and differential treatment for developing countries was feasible and appropriate. The Sub-Group also recognized that this was one of the areas on which work needed to be accelerated and interested participants were urged to enter into bilateral and plurilateral consultations in the period immediately ahead with a view to moving forward as rapidly as possible on this question. In this respect, the Sub-Group noted that some delegations intended to submit further proposals concerning special and differential treatment at an early date for consideration. The hope was expressed that it would be possible to work quickly towards a single text on this matter.
5. The Sub-Group also directed its attention to those parts of the draft integrated text concerning tendering procedures, information and review and final provisions on which suggestions had been circulated since its last meeting. It

was agreed that the comments and suggestions put forward by various members on these matters would need to be taken into account as the work in the Sub-Group proceeded and in bilateral and plurilateral consultations between interested delegations.

6. The Sub-Group also agreed that participants having particular points or suggestion to make on the draft integrated text (MTN/NTM/W/133/Rev.1) 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 be taken up in consultations and negotiations between interested participants, which the Sub-Group agreed should be continued and intensified over the period ahead with a view to reaching agreement on a final text at the earliest possible date.

7. The Sub-Group agreed on procedures for negotiations on procurement entities to be covered by the provisions of the arrangement. With regard to the tabling of offers for the inclusion of procurement entities in the schedules to the arrangement, interested participants are invited to table their offers during the period 27 June-7 July, if possible. In addition to listing procurement entities, the offers should also contain, where available, information on the value of purchases during a recent period of the entities listed and the products purchased, both on an indicative basis. In the process of the exchange of offers between the participants concerned, one copy of each offer should be lodged with the secretariat for inspection by interested delegations, fully respecting the requirements of confidentiality in the multilateral trade negotiations. Interested participants are also invited to submit requests to their trading partners for the inclusion of procurement entities in the schedules to the arrangement. Copies of request lists should be lodged with the secretariat for the information of other interested delegations.

8. It was recognized that in the forthcoming period every effort should be made by participants to provide one another, upon request, with information regarding procurement entities in their respective countries including an indication of product coverage and value of purchases etc. to the extent that this is available.

9. The tabling of offers would be followed by intensive negotiations between the trading partners concerned.

10. In the negotiations on procurement entities, full account would be taken of the individual development, financial and trade needs of developing countries.

11. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting would 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.