

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

#### Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

### MEETING OF JULY 1978

#### Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 21 July 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 the Chairmen of other Groups and Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/179).
5. The Sub-Group had before it MTN/NTM/W/150 containing the text of the Draft Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade and MTN/NTM/W/151 setting out the points before the Sub-Group. It also had before it proposals on special and differential treatment (MTN/NTM/W/154), an Outline Regarding Institutions, Consultations, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance (MTN/NTM/W/144), proposals from certain delegations (MTN/NTM/W/135, 149 and 176) and a summary of Activities of International Organizations to Assist Developing Countries in the Standards Area (MTN/NTM/W/177).
6. The Sub-Group reviewed the situation in the negotiations.
7. It agreed that delegations primarily concerned should continue their consultations on substantive problems relating to levels of obligation and to national and regional certification systems with a view to putting proposals before the Sub-Group which they believed could command general acceptance. With regard to institutions and dispute settlement the Sub-Group agreed that the Chairman examine the possibility of preparing a proposal to put before the Sub-Group in consultation with delegations and taking into account developments in other areas of the negotiations. It further agreed that the Sub-Group should take up the question of special and differential treatment at an appropriate time on the basis of MTN/NTM/W/154 with the aim of producing an agreed text.

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8. The Sub-Group noted that the Second International Conference on Recognition of National Programs for Testing Laboratories (ILAC/78) would be held in Washington, D.C. on 23-27 October 1978, and invited the Chairman to keep it informed of further developments.

9. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting should be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations, the aim being to meet early in September.