

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1978

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 13 September 1978.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend as an observer.
3. The Sub-Group continued its work on the negotiation of an arrangement on government procurement.
4. In general statements, a number of participants recalled the importance of government procurement in international trade and of pursuing the negotiations on government procurement as rapidly as possible. In this respect, reference was made to the need to follow up the bilateral and plurilateral consultations and negotiations over the coming weeks with a view to facilitating agreement on the text of an arrangement in the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group took particular note of the emphasis developing countries placed on incorporating into the arrangement satisfactory provisions relating to special and differential treatment for developing countries.
5. Some participants also raised specific points relating to the contents of the documentation available and it was agreed that these should be taken up in bilateral and plurilateral consultations and at future meetings of the Sub-Group. Delegations were again invited to submit in writing any further proposals they might have so that they could be given careful consideration by the Sub-Group.
6. The Sub-Group also noted the stage reached in the negotiations on procurement entities with some delegations emphasizing the importance of proceeding with this area of the negotiations forthwith. In this respect, reference was made to the summing-up of the last meeting, whereby it was understood that participants making requests and offers on procurement entities would enter into intensive consultations and negotiations during the September/October period with a view to seeking clarification of the offers already made, including their content, and reaching agreement on the maximum possible coverage of entities by the arrangement. Interested participants generally confirmed their intention of proceeding in this way.

7. The Sub-Group agreed that it would continue to meet as frequently as required in the light of progress in the bilateral and plurilateral consultations and negotiations on the text of an arrangement as well as on procurement entities, it being understood that the date of the next meeting would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.