

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/52  
2 October 1978

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

#### Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

### MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1978

#### Summing-Up by the Acting Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 14 and 27 September 1978.
2. It was agreed that the secretariat should act as Chairman for the present meeting.
3. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative to attend the session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
4. The Sub-Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/184). At the end of the meeting, the Acting Chairman summed-up the discussion, on his own responsibility, as follows:

#### A. QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

5. The Sub-Group reverted to the proposals and suggestions relating to the possibility of formulating additional procedures for bilateral and/or plurilateral negotiations on quantitative restrictions and the possibility of working out a general formula or formulae of automatic application as well as the question of differential treatment, including special procedures in favour of developing countries. In this context attention was drawn to proposals and statements made by delegations at an earlier stage of the negotiations.
6. The Sub-Group also heard comments by delegations with respect to requests and indicative lists submitted under the procedures for negotiations on specific non-tariff measures (MTN/NTM/35), and with respect to offers and responses by importing countries concerning specific non-tariff measures relating to certain quantitative restrictions and similar measures. A number of delegations from developing countries voiced concern about the inadequacy of the offers submitted so far by developed countries relating to quantitative restrictions on products of export interest to them. They expressed the hope that more progress would be made in the coming months in this area of the negotiations. It was also proposed

by them that pending the outcome of the negotiations on quantitative restrictions a standstill should be put into effect with respect to restrictions affecting the exports of developing countries, and that a timetable should be established for the phasing out of existing quantitative restrictions within a reasonable time. Some delegations indicated that they might wish to revert to proposals made by them earlier on formulae or procedures of general or automatic application in the light of the outcome of the item-by-item negotiations under the procedures adopted by the Group "Non-Tariff Measures".

7. The Sub-Group requested the secretariat to establish a consolidated list of requests (contained in the MTN/NTM/R... series) and offers or responses, as well as a consolidated list of indicative lists (contained in the MTN/NTM/IL... series) and statements of contributions made by developing countries, which had been submitted under the procedures agreed upon in Group "Non-Tariff Measures" in July 1977 (MTN/NTM/35). These lists would, on a country-by-country basis, set out the following measures: quantitative restrictions, import prohibitions and embargoes, import quotas, import licensing requirements and export restraints. They would indicate the CCCN number or, where unavailable, the CCCN Chapter or the description of the product in relation to which a request or an indicative list had been submitted, the requesting country or countries, the type of measure involved, and the offer or response or the statement of contribution made. Measures covered by the requests which importing countries had indicated as non-existent or as non-applicable to the requesting country or countries would be listed in separate annexes. Prior to the circulation of the lists, importing countries would be requested by the secretariat to update at short notice the information regarding their offers or responses and statements of contributions. It would be understood that since negotiations on quantitative restrictions and similar measures were still proceeding, the consolidated lists should be regarded as provisional in character and would be subject to revision in due course in the light of developments in the negotiations and on the basis of any additional information that might be received. Having regard to the work involved, the secretariat would be putting out the consolidated lists in two parts, the first relating to the lists of offers and requests, and the second to indicative lists and contributions, each part being made available to delegations as soon as it was ready.

#### B. IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES

8. The Sub-Group referred to the document established by the secretariat containing a list of the general points made earlier with respect to the draft texts on import licensing procedures, as well as revised versions of the texts, taking account of specific proposals made by delegations (MTN/NTM/W/127 and Corr.1). The Sub-Group also had before it proposals by Mexico on non-automatic import licensing (MTN/NTM/W/170/Rev.1) and on automatic import licensing (MTN/NTM/W/171/Rev.1).

9. Following discussion the Sub-Group agreed that consultations should be undertaken among delegations with respect to the documents MTN/NTM/W/127 and Corr.1, MTN/NTM/W/170/Rev.1 and MTN/NTM/W/171/Rev.1 so that further negotiations could be undertaken in the Sub-Group and so that at an appropriate stage a revised draft text could be prepared for consideration.

C. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

10. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of the next meeting would be determined by the Acting Chairman in consultation with delegations.