

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/61

4 January 1979

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Government Procurement"

MEETING OF DECEMBER 1978

Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 20 December 1978.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend as an observer.
3. In addition to earlier documentation, the Sub-Group had before it the text of an "Agreement on Government Procurement" (MTN/NTM/W/211) which was made available by a number of participants for consideration on the basis that it would not prejudice the negotiating position of any delegation with regard to its contents. It was noted that the text took into account a number of points raised previously in the Sub-Group as well as matters examined in the course of bilateral and plurilateral consultations among interested delegations.
4. The Sub-Group heard statements by a number of participants in the form of clarifications, comments and suggestions on various parts of the document.
5. In taking note of the substantial progress made with regard to the text, the Sub-Group agreed that consultations and negotiations among interested delegations should proceed, with a view to presenting a final document to the Sub-Group for consideration as quickly as possible.
6. The Sub-Group reviewed the situation with regard to negotiations on lists of procurement entities so far presented in accordance with the procedures outlined in GATT/AIR/1468. It noted the additional offers and certain requests that had been made since the last meeting of the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group welcomed the statement by one participant indicating that his country's list of entities had been lodged with the secretariat and statements by some other participants to the effect that their authorities could be in a position shortly to table lists of entities. The Sub-Group agreed that negotiations among interested participants should be intensified with a view to finalizing this aspect of the government procurement negotiations also as quickly as possible. In this connexion, interested delegations, not having done so, were urged to submit their lists of entities in accordance with the procedures in GATT/AIR/1468 having regard to the relevant provisions in document MTN/NTM/W/211 including those relating to special and differential treatment for developing countries.
7. The Sub-Group agreed to meet again as appropriate to take up outstanding matters in the field of government procurement whenever it was felt useful to do so.