

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

PROPOSAL BY MEXICO FOR FORMULATING A SPECIAL NEGOTIATING PROCEDURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION, FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN RESPECT OF THE ELIMINATION OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

The procedure of notifications and consultations was designed to determine the nature of quantitative restrictions and their scope, and to establish a dialogue in that respect.

These objectives have been only partly achieved, and special negotiating procedures have still not been established, as provided under paragraph 10 of the Tokyo Declaration.

The foregoing points to the need to improve the procedure indicated for the benefit of the developing countries and to establish a special procedure for the negotiation and liberalization of quantitative restrictions in favour of the developing countries.

The Mexican delegation therefore makes the following proposal:

- That the GATT secretariat update the inventory of non-tariff barriers by including the notifications of quantitative restrictions presented by all the countries that have notified within the framework of the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions".
- That arrangements be made for an advisory machinery on the part of the GATT secretariat in order to combine and supplement the information available to the secretariat with that contained in the notifications by developing countries, with a view to establishing comprehensive lists of restrictions notified by various developing countries against each individual developed country.
- That a programme be established for meetings of various developing countries having an interest in one or more products or restrictions that can be jointly examined with each of the developed countries applying them.
- After clarification of the situation existing as regards the nature and scope of each restriction of interest to developing countries, these countries could present specific requests to developed countries.

- An integral part of the special procedure would be based on the developed countries undertaking the commitment to give priority attention to the requests of developing countries and to present specific offers before making notifications or requests to developing countries.
- In parallel, at the next meeting of the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" there should be an in-depth discussion and a reply by the developed countries on the proposals by Brazil and India (COM.TD/W/188, COM.TD/W/198, Annex to MTN/3B/18 and MTN/3B/15) concerning a programme of general or automatic elimination of quantitative restrictions in favour of developing countries.
- If this programme is approved, the procedure of specific requests would be suspended and care would have to be taken to ensure that the specific requests of developing countries were included in the general formula to their satisfaction.
- If the general programme does not cover all restrictions, and in particular those of interest to developing countries, the special procedure of specific requests will have to focus on the exceptions.