

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/W/149

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

PROPOSALS BY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES FOR THE DRAFT CODE FOR PREVENTING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

I. The following text is proposed to be inserted as new paragraphs under Section 17 under a modified heading. Present Section 17(a) would as a consequence become new Section 17(e).

17. Special and differentiated treatment for developing countries and technical assistance

17. (a) Adherents shall provide differentiated and more favourable treatment to developing countries adhering to this Code, through the following provisions, as well as through the relevant provisions in other sections of this Code.

17. (b) Adherents shall give particular attention to the provisions of this Code concerning developing countries' rights and obligations and shall take into account the special development, financial and trade needs of developing countries in the administration of the Code as a whole.

17. (c) Adherents shall, in the preparation and application of technical regulations, standards, test methods and certification systems, take account of the special development, financial and trade needs of developing countries, with a view to ensure that such technical regulations, standards, test methods and certification systems do not create unnecessary obstacles to export from developing countries and thus facilitate the expansion and diversification of the trade of developing countries.

17. (d) Adherents shall use all reasonable means within their power to ensure that international standardizing bodies and international certification systems are organized and operated in a way which facilitates active and representative participation of relevant bodies in all adherents, taking into account the special problems of developing countries.

Note: These proposals were originally circulated as Sections I and III of MTN/NTM/W/138.

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Page 26, document MTN/NTM/W/120, paragraph 3: replace (v) by the following text:

"The preservation of indigenous technology compatible with the socio-economic conditions of developing countries".

The proposals above are intended to cover the following points in document MTN/NTM/W/120:

Section	Page	Proposal by	Covered by
2(a) etc.	2	Many delegations	17(c)
2(c)	3	Argentina, Australia, Nordics, Mexico	17(d)
7 etc.	9	Mexico	19(c)
13	10	Mexico	17(d)
other points 2	22-24	United States, Nigeria, India, Brazil	The proposal as a whole

II. The following proposal intends to provide a way of taking into account the differing situation among developing countries in respect of their ability to assume the obligations under the Code. The text is partly based on paragraph 2 of the Brazilian proposal (MTN/NTM/W/120).

19. (c) With a view to ensure that developing countries are able to comply with the Code, the Committee is enabled to grant upon request specified, time-limited exceptions in whole or in part from obligations under the Code. When considering such requests the Committee shall take into account the special problems, including institutional and infrastructural problems, in the field of preparation and application of technical regulations, standards, test methods and certification systems and the special development and trade needs of the developing country, as well as its stage of technological development, which may hinder its ability to discharge fully its obligations under the Code.