

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/W/157

1 June 1978

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

MEETING OF MAY 1978

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 29 May 1978.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
3. In the same way as at its last session, it invited the Central Secretariat of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Central Office of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to attend this session of the Sub-Group in an expert capacity.
4. The Sub-Group noted the communication received from the Chairman of another Sub-Group (MTN/NTM/W/156).
5. The Sub-Group had before it MTN/NTM/W/150 containing the text of the Draft Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade and MTN/NTM/W/151 setting out the points before the Sub-Group. It also had before it proposals on special and differential treatment (MTN/NTM/W/154), an Outline Regarding Institutions, Consultations, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance (MTN/NTM/W/144) and proposals from certain delegations (MTN/NTM/W/135 and 149).

Reports on consultations

6. The Sub-Group had earlier agreed that delegations which had made proposals should pursue these informally with a view to bringing them back to the Sub-Group when they felt that progress could be made. The Sub-Group heard reports on a number of consultations which had been held. It agreed that consultations should continue amongst all interested delegations with a view to drawing up, as rapidly as possible, draft texts which could be brought before the Sub-Group for discussion.

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Special and differential treatment

7. The Sub-Group noted that there were many proposals on the table in this area. It discussed special and differential treatment for developing countries on the basis of document MTN/NTM/W/154. It agreed that consultations should continue among all interested parties with a view to narrowing the differences in this area. It was also agreed that the Sub-Group would take up questions of special and differential treatment again at the earliest possible date.

Further work

8. The Sub-Group agreed that the date of its next meeting should be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations, bearing in mind the fact that the Sub-Group should be considered in permanent session and callable at short notice.