

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Customs Matters"

CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The following texts relating to the work of the Customs Co-operation Council on a Harmonized Commodity Code and the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, respectively, are being circulated at the request of a number of delegations.

"CONSIDERING that the Harmonized System Committee, under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council, is currently developing a harmonized commodity code for use by all sectors of international trade;

CONSIDERING that such a harmonized code will be beneficial to all international trade interests and should be introduced as soon as possible;

CONSIDERING that the CCC has fixed the end of 1981 as the target date for completion of the system;

CONSIDERING that the volume and complexity of the work is such that compliance with this time-table will require a considerable concentration of effort on the part of all concerned;

The countries subscribing to this instrument invite all participants in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations to give a high priority to the successful and timely completion of the work of the Harmonized System Committee."

"CONSIDERING that the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto, 18 May 1973), prepared under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council, proposes to countries provisions whose application should lead progressively to a high degree of simplification and harmonization of Customs Procedures thus creating conditions favourable to the development of international trade;

The countries subscribing to this instrument invite all participants in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations which have not so far signed or acceded to the above-mentioned International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures to give consideration to acceding to it and to accepting the Annexes thereto."