

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)  
Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

PROPOSAL BY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

The following communication, dated 21 January 1988, has been received from the Nordic countries with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Group.

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With a view to contributing to the expeditious fulfilment of the Negotiating Objective, the Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) hereby submit a proposal in respect of modalities, procedures and implementation schedules regarding the negotiations on tropical products:

1. Establishment of formula for reducing or eliminating tariffs on tropical products on the broadest possible basis, including in their processed and semi-processed forms. Formula to be designed so as to adequately address, inter alia, the issue of harmonization. Agreement on such a formula to be reached by 1988, subsequent to which participants shall present their individual product lists and implementation plans with the objective of starting implementation of tariff cuts as of 1 January 1989; maximum period of implementation: 5 years.
2. Request/offer procedure as supplement to formula with the aim of further reduction of or elimination of tariffs on specific products. Time-frame for implementation of results: cf. 1 above.
3. Participants granting preferences under GSP schemes to unilaterally make special efforts to further improve their schemes and to retain all GSP preferences applicable for tropical products for a period of x years, starting from 1 January 1989.
4. Request/offer procedure with the aim of reducing or eliminating NTMs affecting trade in tropical products. Time-frame for implementation of results: cf. 1 above.
5. Initiation of thorough examination of desirability and feasibility of creating preferences of additional benefit to the least-developed countries (LLDCs).
6. With a view to ensuring broadest possible participation in the negotiations, participants are to grant concessions under 1-4 above in a manner fully consistent with the general principles governing negotiations, implying, inter alia, that developing countries are expected to make contributions in conformity with section B (v) and (vi) of the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round, and that special attention shall be given to the particular situation and problems of the LLDCs.