

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG3/10

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)  
Negotiating Group on Natural  
Resource-Based Products

MEETING OF 19 APRIL 1989

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products held its tenth meeting on 19 April 1989 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Lindsay Duthie (Australia).

2. The Chairman drew the attention of the Group to points for action agreed to by the Trade Negotiations Committee at the Mid-term Review (MTN.TNC/11). He asked for participants' views in particular on the question of the submission of trade barrier data by 30 June. He invited delegations to comment on the interrelationship of the Group's work with that of other Negotiating Groups. He noted that it would be important to resolve the question of the coverage of products and issues within the Group including a clear definition of the specific problems and issues referred to in paragraph 1(d) of the text on Natural Resource-Based Products agreed to in the Mid-term Review. Finally, the Chairman referred to the various documents containing trade and trade policy information which had been prepared by the secretariat since the last meeting of the Group and were now available to participants (MTN.GNG/NG3/W/16/Add.1, MTN.GNG/NG3/W/18/Add.1 and 2, MTN.GNG/NG3/W/19 and MTN.GNG/NG3/W/20).

3. One participant noted that the results achieved at the Montreal meeting of the TNC reinforced the objective of fullest liberalization of trade which, in his view, meant that both border measures and domestic measures which distort trade were within the purview of the Group. His delegation had already provided substantial input to the work of the Group, including examples of the kinds of measures, subsidies and non-tariff measures, that should be considered within the mandate. It was his government's view that the Group must have sufficient information in order to fully identify the problems affecting trade in natural resource-based products. To this end, his government would be submitting information on trade barriers across a wide range of natural resource-based products, including papers elaborating problems affecting trade in both coal and steel. Another participant stated that his delegation would also be submitting data on trade barriers affecting a wide range of products; meanwhile, the overriding priority for the Group was to determine how to deal with the most critical problems affecting trade in these product areas. Another delegate agreed it would be necessary to find ways to tackle certain measures (particularly such practices as dual pricing and export taxes and restrictions). He further informed the Group that his delegation would be contributing relevant data within the established time frame and that his authorities would soon present their position on the

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extension of product coverage, particularly with respect to energy products.

4. One participant suggested that secretariat and national information be pooled with respect to the data collection exercise. In response to a question posed, it was suggested that relevant data from governments on trade barriers submitted to other Negotiating Groups be submitted separately to the Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products, although the secretariat could likewise be responsible for cross-references in its own documentation to information made available to other Groups.

5. One participant reaffirmed his government's position that an approach wherein the horizontal issues would be negotiated in the relevant Groups would be the optimal way to achieve broad coverage and participation. The view was also expressed that the give and take nature of the negotiating process implied more than just market access negotiations. Some delegates stressed the need to work in tandem with other Negotiating Groups. Some concern was expressed that neither the data collection exercise nor the pace of developments in other Negotiating Groups should deter the negotiating process.

6. It was decided to reconvene the Negotiating Group on 13 and 14 July by which date delegations would have had sufficient time to review and analyse the documentation prepared by the secretariat as well as trade and barrier data provided by participants.