

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF REPORTS  
PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 16 OF THE MID-TERM  
REVIEW DECISION ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The present note has been prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture that draft guidelines for the submission of the reports provided for in paragraph 16 of the MTR Decision should be circulated for consideration at the meeting of the Group on 25-26 October 1989 (NG5/15, paragraph 4 refers).
2. Paragraph 16 of the MTR Decision states that participants agree to report on their compliance with the undertakings in paragraph 14 (status quo or freeze) and paragraph 15 (reduction) at six-monthly intervals. The first compliance reports are required to be submitted not later than 1 December 1989. By virtue of paragraph 19 of the MTR Decision developing countries are not expected to subscribe to the short-term commitments.
3. The following suggested guidelines are primarily intended to provide a degree of uniformity with respect to the matters on which participants would be expected to report under paragraphs 14 and 15 of the MTR Decision so as to facilitate subsequent examination of the reports by other participants and by the Negotiating Group.

I: Paragraph 14 (Status Quo Undertakings)

4. The status quo undertaking is twofold in character. The first consists in an undertaking with respect to the general "levels" of support and protection. The second is more specific and relates to market access barriers and to the level of support prices to producers. In both cases the effective date of the undertakings is the date of the adoption of the MTR Decision, namely 8 April 1989. Furthermore the undertakings are made within the scope of existing legislation and existing GATT rights and obligations.

Levels of Support and Protection

5. In reporting on their compliance with this undertaking participants should endeavour to provide an overall assessment of developments in levels of support and protection since April 1989 in their agricultural sectors,

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including export support and protection, and to provide information on any governmental measures that have been introduced or modified that have affected or may affect their undertakings not to exceed current levels of support and protection.

6. Where feasible this assessment should be accompanied by relevant data on levels of support and protection for the agriculture sector as a whole, for the major commodity groups, or for individual products as appropriate. This may include the use of an aggregate measurement, budgetary outlays and estimates, or other relevant data.

#### Market Access Barriers

7. Participants are already required to provide information on tariff and non-tariff access measures in the context of the revised AG/FOR/- series on a tariff-line basis (see MTN.GNG/NG5/W/1: Annex I, Columns 8 to 14). The suggested guideline is that where in the course of the period under review there has been an intensification in any tariff or non-tariff measures applicable to an individual product, participants would be expected to notify the change in question and to demonstrate that, as the case may be, access opportunities in respect of the product or processed product concerned in 1989 or 1990 are not less than those granted on average in 1987 and 1988. For this purpose participants may provide data on the average volume of imports of the product concerned in 1987 and 1988. The object would be to show that the undertaking regarding "market access opportunities" is being respected or alternatively that the qualifications relating to existing legislation or GATT rights and obligations are relevant.

#### Support Prices to Producers

8. In reporting on this undertaking participants are expected to provide information in national currencies (ECU in the case of the EEC) on prices guaranteed to producers under any system of income or price support, whether the system is administered directly by central government agencies or through other entities such as monopoly trading bodies, producer associations or boards. This information is to be provided for individual commodities and in the first instance in respect of prices prevailing at the beginning of April 1989, with any subsequent changes being notified in the six-monthly reports.

9. It may be noted that the undertaking with respect to support prices to producers is qualified by the proviso "or otherwise take actions to ensure that current levels of support for the commodity concerned are not increased". Thus where there is an increase in the nominal support price to producers of a commodity it would be open to the participant concerned to show that the level of support for that commodity has nevertheless not been increased as a result of other actions taken with respect to that commodity.

II: Paragraph 15 (Support and Protection Levels for 1990)

10. The information to be reported in respect of the undertakings pursuant to paragraph 15 of the MTR Decision will necessarily be tailored to the specific or general undertakings notified to the Negotiating Group by the end of October 1989. Participants would be expected, in due course, to report on the implementation of the undertakings made and on their effects in terms of reducing support and protection levels for 1990.