

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Updated Country Notes

Each of a new series of "guides for multilateral consultations" circulated as MTN.GNG/NG6/W/28-34 for the seven products groups¹ included "country notes". These notes provided information on certain elements of the contributions made by individual countries/markets such as implementation dates, binding and the nature of contributions.

The attached table is an updated version of these country notes. It takes into account additional contributions made by a number of countries since the Mid-Term Review of the Round and shows the implementation dates of contributions so far notified. This document should therefore replace all previous country notes.

¹These product groups have been selected for negotiations on tropical products in the Uruguay Round.

TABLE 1: COUNTRY NOTES

Country/market	Base/previous rate of duty	Implementation dates	Binding (see also general notes regarding specific negotiating results)	Nature of contributions and other remarks
Australia	Base rate as at 20.9.86	I) Designated items (mostly products in Chapters 24-94) - staged between 1.7.88 and 1.7.92 II) Undesignated items - 1.7.88	Australia is prepared to negotiate the binding of all MFN bindings have been offered conditionally until the satisfactory end of the Uruguay Round and subject to burden sharing and appropriate contributions	The country list indicates MFN tariff reductions, which will automatically reduce GSP rates: Australia maintains a GSP margin of five percentage points on MFN rates on all tropical products where applicable (i.e. wherever there remains scope for such preferential margins).
Austria	1988 rate	1.7.89		The country list indicates tariff actions (MFN, GSP and EEC). GSP actions are subject to the same conditions for MFN bindings. Some new MFN rates and improvements of GSP offers have been notified later. Two GSP offers on wood products were not approved by Parliament due to concern over deforestation in the tropics.
Brazil	1986 rate	1.7.88		The country list is presented according to CCCN-based Brazilian tariff classification with indications of MFN actions. Indications of tariff contributions are based on the identification of corresponding HS heading numbers by the delegation of Brazil.
Canada	1988 rate	1.7.88	Retroactive to 1.7.89. The domestic procedure for implementation was completed in October 1989	The country list indicates MFN tariff actions. With respect to 7 tariff items Canada was to consider introducing extracts of each item to cover specific tropical products of export interest to developing countries. The "extracts" have been identified for 6 of these items.
Central American countries	1988 rate	Date of the entry into force of the 1990 tariffs	29.11.88	The country list is presented according to CCCN-based tariff classifications with indications of corresponding HS heading numbers and MFN tariff actions.
Colombia	1988 rate	Ceiling binding offered for two items	I)MFN tariff actions - 1.7.89 II) GSP tariff actions - 1.1.89 III) GSP elimination - 1.7.89	MFN tariff action (reduction for 2 items)
EEC				The country list indicates tariff actions (mostly MFN; GSP for two items) and the elimination of quantitative restrictions applied by member States on tropical products.

TABLE 1 (cont'd)

Country/market	Base/previous rate of duty	Implementation dates	Binding (see also general notes regarding specific negotiating results)	Nature of contributions and other remarks
Finland	1988 rate	1.7.89		The country list indicates tariff actions (mostly MFN; GSP for a few items)
Japan	Rate of duty as at 1.1.88	i) tariff actions - 1.4.89 except for one item (2008.20 - 1.4.90) ii) termination of import quotas 1.10.88, 1.4.90 and 1.4.92	Most MFN tariff actions are accompanied by undertakings for binding. The country list includes some autonomous tariff reductions not accompanied by such undertakings.	The country list indicates tariff actions (mostly MFN and GSP; LIDC for beeswax) and the termination of import quotas. A note refers to the abolition of commodity tax and sugar excise tax and the introduction of consumption tax on all the goods and services uniformly. The country list also indicates autonomous tariff reductions on plywood for information only.
Malaysia		1) 8 items - 1.4.89 ii) unilateral tariff reductions implemented on 21.10.88 for other items iii) 13 additional items 20.4.89	1) 8 items - binding at ceiling level considered at the end of the Round	The country list indicates MFN tariff actions. Malaysia notified additional contributions on 13 items on 17.10.89.
Mexico		1.5.89 for one item(pyrethrum extracts). Procedures for implementation taken for another item		The country list indicates "the preferential margin for developing countries of 25 per cent of the MFN rates" for two items
New Zealand	Rate applied before 1.7.88	Staged between 1.1.88 and 1.7.92	New Zealand is ready to consider binding all tariff items on the basis of reciprocal commitments in access negotiations from other participants in the Round	The country list indicates MFN tariff actions
Norway	1988 rate	1.7.89	All MFN tariff actions have been offered for binding	The country list indicates MFN and GSP tariff actions
Philippines			Binding at 20 - 50 per cent offered for 5 items	
Sweden	1988 rate	1.7.89	All MFN tariff actions have been offered for binding on certain tropical flowers have been notified later.	The country list indicates tariff actions (MFN duty-free treatment). Details of MFN and GSP duty-free treatment

TABLE 1 (cont'd)

Country/market	Base/previous rate of duty	Implementation dates	Binding (see also general notes regarding specific negotiating results)	Nature of contributions and other remarks
Switzerland	1988 rate	1.7.89	Switzerland envisages the possibility of converting GSP contributions totally or partially into MFN contributions at the end of the Uruguay Round having regard to the results obtained globally in the Round.	The country list indicates tariff actions (MFN,GSP and LLDC). Switzerland has later notified a revised list of its contributions, specifying 8-digit tariff sub-positions and reduced tariff rates on the basis of previous indications. However, Switzerland is still to specify its actions on four items.
Thailand		September 1988		Unilateral MFN tariff reductions on 3 items
COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE MADE AUTONOMOUS UNILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS				
United States	Tokyo Round final rate of duty	18.10.89	The binding of MFN concessions will depend (i) for agricultural tropical products, on a successful outcome for agriculture in the Round, (ii) for industrial tropical products, on receiving concessions or contributions on the area of interest to the United States from participants benefitting from US concessions, consistent with the relevant provisions of the Punta del Este Declaration, and (iii) for two rattan products, on the outcome of discussions to relieve the adverse economic effects of the Indonesian export embargo on rattan and rattan parts.	The country list indicates MFN tariff reductions
Country		Implementation dates		Nature of actions
Czechoslovakia	1.7.89			GSP actions (duty-free or reduction)
Indonesia	21.11.88			MFN tariff reductions
Hungary	1.7.89			GSP actions (duty-free or reduction)
Poland	1.1.89			GSP duty-free for all products in the seven product groups
Republic of Korea	MFN tariff actions staged between 1.1.89 and 1.1.93.	Removal of import quotas 1988,1989,1990 and 1991		MFN tariff actions and removal of import quotas
Singapore	-			Ceiling binding at 20% offered on 6 duty-free item
South Africa	27.10.89			MFN tariff actions (duty-free treatment)
Yugoslavia	1988 and in the first half of 1989			Elimination and relaxation of import restrictions