An extension of the time-limit prescribed in the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 8 November 1988 to waive the obligations under Article II of the General Agreement has been requested by the Government of Sri Lanka in a communication dated 20 October 1989 (L/6578). The following draft decision is circulated in order to facilitate the consideration by the Council of the request from Sri Lanka.

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by Decision of 8 November 1988, suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) on 1 January 1989 and carry out negotiations subsequently;

Considering that the relevant authorities in Sri Lanka are in the final stage of preparing the Harmonized System documentation necessary for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII, but that, due to technical difficulties, it has not yet been possible to submit it as foreseen;

Noting that the Government of Sri Lanka is doing its utmost to complete the preparation of the required documentation with a view to conducting consultations and negotiations with contracting parties as soon as possible;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement,

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to extend the time-limit, provided for in the Decision of 8 November 1988, until 30 June 1990.