The Consultative Group of Eighteen held its eleventh meeting on 3 and 4 March 1980 in Geneva. The Chairman was Mr. Olivier Long, Director-General of GATT.

This was the first meeting of the Group since the completion of the Tokyo Round, and also its first since the decision of the GATT Council, in November 1979, to make it a permanent body.

A major subject considered by the Group was the trade policy aspects of the North-South dialogue. The Group discussed in particular the contribution that GATT could make to the global negotiations on trade and other issues that are to be launched later this year by a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Group also took up the subject of structural adjustment and trade policy. Under the work programme adopted by the Contracting Parties to GATT in November 1979, the Consultative Group of Eighteen has been requested to examine this question, and to advise the GATT Council and Committee on Trade and Development on how further work should be carried out in this area.

The twelfth meeting of the Group will be held on 15 and 16 July 1980.

The Consultative Group of Eighteen consists of high-level representatives, nominated by governments, with trade policy responsibilities in their countries. Its purpose is to provide GATT, on a continuing basis, with a small but representative group in which existing and emerging trade policy issues can be discussed.

The countries represented in the Consultative Group are:

Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Canada
Egypt
European Communities and their member States
Hungary
India
Japan
Malaysia
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Spain
Switzerland
United States
Zaire