NAMIBIA BECOMES GATT'S 105TH CONTRACTING PARTY

Namibia today (15 September) became the 105th contracting party of GATT following a notification by its Government to the Director-General, Mr. Arthur Dunkel. Namibia has acceded under the terms of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement.

The country acquired full autonomy from South Africa in the conduct of its external relations in March 1990. Since that time, it has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis. Under these circumstances, Namibia needed only to notify the GATT Director-General that it wished to be deemed a contracting party, having met the conditions required by Article XXVI:5(c).

Notes to Editors

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement is as follows:

"(c) If any of the customs territories, in respect of which a contracting party has accepted this Agreement, possesses or acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and
of the other matters provided for in this Agreement, such territory shall, upon sponsorship through a declaration by the responsible contracting party establishing the above-mentioned fact, be deemed to be a contracting party."

2. In 1991, Namibia's exports amounted to US$1,184 million with diamonds, manufactures (including processed fish and meat), and uranium as the main export products. Imports were valued at US$1,238 million with food and beverages, machinery and electrical goods, vehicles and transport equipment, and mineral fuels and lubricants as the main imports. Namibia's principle export markets are Switzerland, South Africa, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom, while its main suppliers are South Africa, Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.