SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Held at the Centre William Rappard, Geneva,
on 1 July 1997 at 4.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. C. Lafer (Brazil)

Representatives present:

- Benelux
- Brazil
- China
- Colombia
- Egypt
- France
- Greece
- India
- Italy
- Mexico
- Norway
- Philippines
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Mr. Strik (Netherlands)
- Mr. Azevedo
- Mr. Zhongzhou
- Mr. Gao
- Mr. Prieto
- Mr. Zahran
- Mr. Vincent
- Mrs. Eleftheriotou
- Mr. Rajappan
- Mr. Giorgi
- Mr. Barba
- Mr. Øyslebø
- Mr. Buencamino
- Mr. Harvey
- Mr. Stoler

Subject discussed: Draft decision on staff conditions of service

Mr. Lafer (Brazil) was elected Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman recalled that the ICITO had been created in 1948 by a Resolution adopted at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment in Havana, to carry out specific functions pending the establishment of the International Trade Organization. The terms of the Resolution gave ICITO an organizational structure and entitled it to the benefits of privileges and immunities. At its first meeting, on 20 March 1948, the Commission had elected its Executive Secretary. The Commission had also elected its Executive Committee and had delegated all its powers to it, including the power to replace the Executive Secretary if that should become necessary.
The Executive Committee had met in September 1948 and approved financial arrangements which conferred authority on the Executive Secretary of ICITO to provide secretariat services to the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the GATT 1947.

Under the provisions of the Agreement on the Transfer of Assets, Liabilities, Records, Staff and Functions from the ICITO and the GATT to the WTO (WT/L/36), the staff of the ICITO presently performed the duties of the Secretariat of the WTO, and the ICITO was to be dissolved on the date on which the members of the Secretariat of the WTO were appointed.

He recalled also that, for legal reasons, such as to enable the Secretariat to engage in contractual transactions and to participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the function of Executive Secretary of ICITO and Director-General of the WTO was exercised by the same person.

The sole purpose of the present meeting was to adopt a draft decision on the conditions of service of the staff of the Secretariat, which had been circulated in document WT/GCAV/63/Rev.2. The draft decision, among other things, called on the Director-General of the WTO, in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the ICITO, to complete by 31 August 1997 detailed consultations with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund on the precise terms and conditions which would apply in the event of termination of ICITO membership in the Fund, including in particular the method to determine the proportionate share of assets to be returned to the ICITO under Article 16 of the Regulations of the Fund. The General Council of the WTO, for its part, had already adopted the decision, and it now remained for the ICITO Executive Committee to do the same. He proposed that the Executive Committee adopt the draft decision contained in WT/GC/W/63/Rev.2.

The Executive Committee so agreed.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.