SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Held at the Centre William Rappard, Geneva,
on 24 April 1998 at 12.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. J. Weekes (Canada)

Subject discussed: Draft decision on conditions of service applicable to the staff of the WTO Secretariat

Mr. Weekes (Canada) was elected Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman recalled that the ICITO was 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 elected its Executive Secretary. The Commission also elected its Executive Committee and delegated all its powers to it, including the power to replace the Executive Secretary if that should become necessary.

The Executive Committee 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 perform the duties of the Secretariat of the WTO, and the ICITO is to be dissolved on the date on which the members of the Secretariat of the WTO are 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 is exercised by the same person.

The sole purpose of the present meeting was to adopt the draft decision on conditions of service applicable to the staff of the WTO Secretariat (WT/GC/W/83) which had earlier been adopted by the WTO General Council. He proposed that the record of this meeting read exactly the same as the record.
of the statements by the Chairman of the General Council and the Executive Committee members on this matter at the General Council meeting on 24 April and that the Executive Committee adopt the draft decision in WT/GC/W/83 in the light of the statement that was made by the Chairman of the General Council at the above meeting.¹

The Executive Committee so agreed.²

The meeting closed at 1.15 p.m.

¹The record of the statements made on this matter by members of the Executive Committee at the 24 April WTO General Council meeting, as well as the statement by the Chairman in the light of which the decision was adopted by the General Council, is contained in WT/GC/M/28. The statements made at the 24 April WTO General Council meeting by non-members of the Executive Committee are also contained in WT/GC/M/28.

²The decision on conditions of service applicable to the staff of the WTO Secretariat as adopted by the Executive Committee and the WTO General Council was circulated as WT/L/269.