PARTICIPATION OF TUNISIA IN THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

(Decision of 12 November 1959)

Considering that the Government of Tunisia has made a request to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to accede to the General Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article XXXIII and is ready to enter into tariff negotiations with contracting parties to that end;

Considering that a tariff conference is to be convened commencing in 1960 and that it would be more convenient to arrange for tariff negotiations between contracting parties and Tunisia to be held during that conference;

Desiring that the Government of Tunisia shall meanwhile be associated with the discussions and deliberations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES;

Noting that a number of contracting parties intend that, pending the accession of Tunisia pursuant to Article XXXIII, commercial relations between them and Tunisia shall be based upon the provisions of the General Agreement, in accordance with the Declaration of 12 November 1959; and

Considering that the said Declaration requests the CONTRACTING PARTIES to perform certain functions comparable in nature to their functions under the General Agreement;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

Decide:

1. to invite the Government of Tunisia to participate in sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and of subsidiary bodies established by the CONTRACTING PARTIES;

2. to accept such functions as are necessary for the operation of the Declaration referred to in the preamble to this Decision; and

3. to make arrangements for tariff negotiations between contracting parties and Tunisia during the tariff conference commencing in 1960.

This Decision shall continue in effect until the accession of Tunisia following tariff negotiations with contracting parties or until 31 December 1961, whichever date is earlier, unless the CONTRACTING PARTIES agree to extend it to a later date.
The Government of Tunisia and the other governments on behalf of which this Declaration has been accepted (the latter governments hereinafter referred to as the "participating governments");

Considering that the Government of Tunisia on 4 November 1959 made a formal request to accede to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as the "General Agreement") in accordance with the provisions of Article XXXIII of the General Agreement; and

Having regard to the desire of many contracting parties to the General Agreement to conduct the tariff negotiations with Tunisia, which it is considered should precede accession under Article XXXIII, during the tariff conference to be held in 1960 and 1961, arrangements for which are being made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "CONTRACTING PARTIES");

1. Declare that, pending the accession of Tunisia under the provisions of Article XXXIII, following the conclusion of tariff negotiations with contracting parties to the General Agreement, the commercial relations between the participating governments and Tunisia shall be based upon the General Agreement as if the provisions of the model protocol of accession approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 23 October 1951, were embodied in this Declaration, except that Tunisia shall not have any direct rights with respect to the concessions contained in the schedules annexed to the General Agreement either under the provisions of Article II or under the provisions of any other Article of the General Agreement.

2. Request the CONTRACTING PARTIES to perform such functions as are necessary for the operation of this Declaration.

3. This Declaration, which has been approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES by a two-thirds majority, shall be opened for acceptance, by signature or otherwise, by Tunisia, by contracting parties to the General Agreement, and by any governments which accede provisionally to the General Agreement.

4. This Declaration shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement.

5. The Executive Secretary of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement shall promptly furnish a certified copy of this Declaration, and a notification of each acceptance thereof, to each government to which this Declaration is open for acceptance.
6. This Declaration shall become effective between Tunisia and any participating government on the thirtieth day following the day upon which it shall have been accepted on behalf of Tunisia and of that government; it shall remain in force until the Government of Tunisia accedes to the General Agreement under the provisions of Article XXXIII thereof or until 31 December 1961, whichever date is earlier, unless it has been agreed by Tunisia and the participating governments to extend its validity to a later date.

Done at Tokyo this twelfth day of November one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, in a single copy in the English and French languages, both texts authentic.