1. The Committee held its twenty-fourth meeting on 9-10 March 1987. It elected Mr. D Bondad (Philippines), Chairman and Mr. S. Chang (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chairman, for 1987.

2. The Committee considered a communication from the People's Republic of China and agreed to grant observer status to the People's Republic of China, on the same conditions as those applied to other observers.

3. The Committee took note that the Bureau of Indian Standards Act had recently been adopted by the Indian Parliament and agreed to a further extension of the exception granted to India under Article 12.8 in 1983, until the entry into force of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act on 1 April 1987.

4. The Committee continued its discussion on various approaches to the issue of testing, inspection and type approval, a subject which had also been suggested by a number of individual Parties for negotiations in the Uruguay Round. It discussed a proposal for gathering information on any measures maintained at the national level that encouraged the use of the ISO/IEC Guides referred to in the relevant recommendation of the Committee (TBT/16/Rev.3/Corr.1).

5. The Committee also discussed ways of improving transparency on bilateral standards agreements on the basis of a proposal which suggested the exchange of information on such agreements through enquiry points in Parties.

6. The Committee heard statements by several Parties concerning the supportive rôle it may have in the Uruguay Round relating to areas covered by the Agreement, and agreed to discuss further how its work could be organized in this respect.

7. The Committee noted that one Party had undertaken a revision of standards and certification procedures concerning a safety mark system on ski equipment in its territory following informal consultations it had held with interested Parties. The Committee also noted that consultations were underway between two Parties concerning a measure on the use in livestock of certain substances having a hormonal action. One of the Parties informed the Committee that if, in the near future, no satisfactory resolution of the matter could be reached on the basis of the written proposals which it had made earlier to the other Party concerned, it would request the initiation of an investigation by the Committee under Article 14.4 of the Agreement.

8. The next meeting will be held on 22-23 June 1987. The Autumn meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 12-14 October 1987, with a meeting on procedures for information exchange on 13 October 1987.

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