GATT STAFF REPRESENTATION

GATT Staff Association Rules

At the staff meeting held on 25 April 1957, it was unanimously decided that the staff representatives should prepare draft rules on the lines of the United Nations Staff Association Statutes for approval at a subsequent meeting, to be then submitted to the Executive Secretary for approval.

Enumerated below are certain provisions of the Statutes of the Staff Association of the European Office of the United Nations which cannot be fully applied for the GATT staff, and have thus to be amended so as to make them workable. The suggestions are made with a view to achieving a solution in conformity with the decision taken at the above-mentioned meeting, namely to eliminate provisions the application of which would be too complicated for such a small group as the GATT secretariat comprises. These changes are divided into the following three groups included in the draft GATT Association Statutes:

1. Modifications to adapt the Statutes for the purpose of the GATT staff.
2. Differences due to the small size of the GATT staff.
3. Differences due to the fact that for the time being there will be no financial obligations on the part of the staff members.

It is regretted that it was not possible to obtain enough copies of the United Nations Statutes for distribution, but these can be seen in the offices of the staff representatives. The GATT Statutes will, however, be distributed in full in a staff communication paper, as soon as approved by the Executive Secretary.

The procedure for bringing the new GATT Statutes into force will be the following:

1. Anyone who wishes to suggest changes is invited to do so in writing to one of the staff representatives before the end of 1957.
2. In January 1958 all suggestions will be presented to an assembly, and decisions will be taken by simple vote.
3. It will be assumed that provisions to which no changes have been proposed are unanimously adopted.
4. The final draft Statutes will be presented to the Executive Secretary for approval.

Maureen Wilson

F.K. Liebich

Spec/110/57/Add.1
The provisions of the Statutes of the Staff Association of the European Office of the United Nations apply fully to the GATT Staff Association, with the modifications given below.

Changes in the United Nations Statutes subsequent to the adoption of the GATT Statutes shall become effective for the GATT secretariat three months after they have been made known to the Staff Assembly, unless such changes are rejected by a simple majority Assembly vote.

These Statutes shall remain in force also in case GATT is transformed into or taken over by a new organization (e.g. the WTO). In this case the necessary technical changes are to be proposed by the staff representatives and approved (by simple majority vote) by the Staff Assembly.

1. Modifications to adapt the UN Statutes for the purpose of the GATT staff

In Article 1 the name of the association is to read: "GATT Staff Association".

In Articles 2(c) and 3(b) the words "Secretary-General of the United Nations" are to be replaced by the words: "Executive Secretary of GATT".

In Article 4(1) in the sentence: "All members of the staff of the European Office of the United Nations are members of the Staff Association", the opening phrase should read: "All members of the GATT staff are.....".

2. Differences due to the smaller size of the GATT staff

Under the United Nations Staff Statutes the Staff Council, consisting of the elected staff representatives, delegates a part of its power to the Staff Committee. As long as the number of the Staff Council of the GATT Staff Association does not exceed eight members, such delegation shall not take place. (Articles 23 to 25 and wherever a reference to the Staff Committee appears.)

In Article 7 it is stated that a referendum shall be held upon the decision of the STAFF Council, or the written request of at least fifty members; Article 9 paragraph 1 provides that an Extraordinary Staff Assembly can be convened by the written request of at least fifty members. This request to have a vote of fifty members shall be replaced by the obligation to have one vote for each ten members of the staff, rounding off the relevant basic figures to the next full tenth.

The Staff Council shall consist of one member and one alternate for each electoral unit¹ instead of the figure of fourteen members and fourteen alternates as provided in the United Nations Statutes (Article 13(1)).

¹The two traditional units for the time being.
All functions related to the election and nomination of the Polling Officers as well as the division into electoral units shall be the responsibility of the Assembly. (Articles 13(2) and 14).

There shall, as long as there is no Staff Committee, be no separate organization of the electoral units (Article 26).

3. Differences due to the fact that for the time being there will be no financial obligations on the part of the staff members

All references to financial obligations of the staff members or financial institutions of the Association do not apply, such as

Articles 8-2, (b) and (c); Articles 28, 29, 30 and 31; Article 33.

If there should, however, be financial obligations, for example, for the reason of adhering to the FICSA, the necessary contributions would be levied consequent on approval by the Assembly.