GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Meeting of Ministers

STATEMENT MADE BY ATO TADESE MOGESE,
ASSISTANT MINISTER, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY, ETHIOPIA ON 17 MAY 1963

Item I: Measures for the Expansion of Trade of Developing Countries
as a Means of Furthering their Economic Development

The problems that beset the countries in the process of economic development have been under constant study by national, regional, and international bodies. Nonetheless no concrete measures of far-reaching significance have yet been taken to elevate the trade problems of the countries undergoing the process of economic development. On the contrary, it is when a solution to all their problems seems to have been found, that new ones crop up adding extra weight to an already strained world trade situation. Ethiopia has in various international forums, notably in Belgrade, Cairo, and the various United Nations organs, persistently called for action in view of the urgency of the trade problems confronting the developing nations and the need to find equitable solutions to these problems. The Ethiopian delegation is pleased to note that these important problems are receiving the attention and sympathy in the industrialized countries and the unreserved co-operation of which the solution of these problems largely depends. What now remains is the acceptance and implementation of the eight-point action programme. The Ethiopian delegation hopes that the policy decision reached here would adequately reflect

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the interests of all the developing countries including the Members and non-members of GATT. However, the GATT might be able to make several contributions to the elevation of the various trade problems and it is the opinion of my delegation that a far reaching and equitable solution to the problems that confront the trading community of the world in general and the developing countries in particular will be found because of the concerted efforts of the nations of the world. It is in this spirit that we have actively participated in all international conferences and in the solving of these pressing problems. My delegation hopes that the deliberation of this meeting and the conclusions reached will make a positive contribution to the objectives of the proposed United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which is scheduled to convene in 1964.