APPLICATION OF THE GATT WORK PROGRAMME
Communication from contracting parties members of the
Latin American Economic System

Contracting parties members of the Latin American Economic System
(SELA) have requested that Decision No. 193 of the Latin American Council
be distributed to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

DECISION No. 193

APPLICATION OF THE GATT WORK PROGRAMME
THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3 paragraph b) of the Panama Convention;

Decision 151 of the Latin American Council;

The Final Report of the Latin American Co-ordination
Meeting in relation to the Ministerial Meeting of the GATT
Contracting Parties (SP/CL/IX.O/Di No. 2);

The Ministerial Declaration of the Meeting of the
GATT Contracting Parties in 1982;

The statement of the developing Member Countries of
GATT on "Improvement of World trade relations through the
application of the GATT Work Programme" (L/5647);

The Document "Evaluation of the International Trading
System and fulfilment of the GATT Ministerial Declaration",
presented by the Permanent Secretariat (SP/CL/X.O/DT No. 12).

WHEREAS:

As a result of the Thirty-eighth Ministerial Meeting
of the GATT Contracting Parties held in November 1982 a work
programme was established for the purpose of improving trade relations;

The outcome of that meeting was unsatisfactory for the developing countries since there was no increase in the possibilities of access for developing countries' exports to the markets of the industrialized countries;

The GATT Work Programme is not yet being fulfilled satisfactorily for the developing countries;

The international trade system is deteriorating rapidly owing to the increase in the developed countries' protectionist policies, their disregard for basic principles such as the most-favoured-nation clause and their recourse to restrictive measures inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement;

In spite of the foregoing, some developed countries have expressed their intention to initiate a new round of trade negotiations within the framework of GATT, including new issues not considered to be within its competence;

The developing Member Countries of GATT have issued the document on "Improvement of world trade relations through the application of the GATT Work Programme" (L/5647) in which they state their main aspirations within the framework of GATT and their position regarding the possibility of holding a new round of trade negotiations, pointing out that, "if the work programme is not implemented in its entirety or until this is done, any initiative, such as holding a new round of trade negotiations
within GATT, will lack credibility and significance, especially for the developing countries, 

DECIDES:

Article 1 - To urge developed countries to comply fully with the GATT Work Programme, especially in areas of interest to developing countries.

Article 2 - To deplore the increase in restrictions imposed by industrialized countries on exports from developing countries, and the former's growing recourse to the application of the principle of reciprocity in their trade relations, in violation of the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement.

Article 3 - To declare its firm support for the contents of the statement on "Improvement of world trade relations through the application of the GATT Work Programme" issued by the developing countries which are Contracting Parties to the General Agreement.

Article 4 - To entrust the Permanent Secretariat to continue with its systematic follow-up on the implementation of the actions provided for in the GATT Ministerial Declaration and, to that end, to prepare the relevant analyses and studies and submit them for the consideration of the Member States.
Article 5  -  To direct the Permanent Secretariat to inform the Director-General of GATT of this Decision, and to ask him that it be distributed at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.