1. I would like to recall to the delegations here that our sub-group was created with the view to negotiate substantive solutions to the problems of the international meat market and, in this respect, agreed to deal initially with all the proposals that have been made or may be made in connexion with the topics mentioned in the document MTN/ME/1, paragraph 6.

2. At the present stage of our work, we consider that the sub-group had created the necessary conditions for such negotiations: the characteristics, the structure and the problems of the international bovine meat trade were examined; the direct and indirect impact of import and export measures taken by different countries were analyzed in depth; some delegations presented their views concerning the objectives of negotiations and specified their interests on different import markets.

3. Before we proceed to the second stage of our work, with your permission Mr. Chairman, I would like to present briefly my delegation's position regarding the objectives of the meat negotiations and the necessary measures for their implementation.

4. In our opinion, the main objectives of our efforts should be:

- the progressive dismantling of all the obstacles to trade in order to create an improved access to markets;

- the ensuring of stable markets and prices;

- the definition and rapid implementation of the special, more favourable treatment for the developing countries in this sector of agricultural trade.

5. To this effect, among others, the following steps are necessary:

(a) The elimination or substantial reduction of customs duties on meat and meat products.
(b) The elimination of variable levies for refrigerated meat, their reduction in the case of frozen meat, especially boneless meat, portioned in anatomic pieces. It is also necessary that the remaining reduced levies should be established in advance, for as long a period as possible - a minimum of three months - with a view to enable stable marketing conditions.

The EEC levy-free GATT quota for imports of frozen bovine meat should be substantially increased and a similar quota should be established for refrigerated meat; non-discriminatory access to these quotas should be granted to all exporting countries;

(c) The immediate abolition of the restrictive measures imposed by some importing countries and the liberalization of imports under quota;

(d) The elimination of the discretionary licensing systems and the simplification of formalities for the delivery of general import licences;

(e) To guarantee, through an international mechanism, a long term secured access to importing countries, at remunerative prices, which stimulate production and exports of the producing countries, by covering the production expenses and a reasonable benefit. These prices should be guaranteed for a long period of time, including the situations of surplus on international markets, in order to ensure necessary investments for a continuous production process, especially in the developing countries;

(f) To include in the GATT Standards Code provisions for the uniformization of sanitary and veterinary regulations and for technical assistance to developing countries in order to comply with these regulations;

(g) To seek appropriate solutions for differential and special treatment for exporting and importing developing countries.

6. We think, Mr. Chairman, that all the elements exposed by our delegation form the object of our multilateral negotiations and we are open to any procedural proposal which will permit the acceleration of their positive consideration.