Note by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met from 27 January to 6 February 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, or his representative, to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.

Standards, packaging and labelling

2. The Sub-Group examined the specific drafting suggestions made by delegations regarding the Proposed Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade (MTN/NTM/W/25 and addenda and MTN/NTM/W/5). It agreed on a number of amendments to the text of the proposed Code and on those proposals which should be retained for further consideration. The Sub-Group requested the secretariat to circulate details of the proposals to which it agreed to revert and of specific points which it had agreed to record.¹

3. The Sub-Group examined the applicability to the Proposed Code of the definitions drawn up by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Organization for Standardization. Some delegations noted that it remained open to the Sub-Group to return to the definitions in the Proposed Code (MTN/NTM/W/5). The Sub-Group agreed that the ECE/ISO terms could be used in the Proposed Code, but noted that some delegations preferred the terms "standard" to "technical specification", "voluntary standard" to "standard" and "mandatory standard" to "technical regulation". The Sub-Group also agreed that, in many cases, the detailed wording of the ECE/ISO definitions could be applied to the Code. It agreed that in a number of cases the ECE/ISO definitions would need to be modified for the purpose of the Code and on the substance of these modifications. It noted two alternative ways of presenting this

¹To be issued in MTN/NTM/W/37
agreement. It agreed to return to a limited number of specific drafting suggestions regarding the definitions.

4. The Sub-Group agreed that the secretariat should make an attempt to circulate the text of the Proposed Code as it would be if the ECE/ISO terms and definitions as amended by the Sub-Group were adopted. This text should also incorporate the amendments agreed at the meeting.¹

Marks of origin

5. The Sub-Group noted that it had two proposals before it (MTN/NTM/W/32 and Add.1). It reiterated its invitation to delegations to make proposals as to how marks of origin should be dealt with in the negotiations and agreed to take up the question of marks of origin again at an appropriate time.

Date of the next meeting

6. The Sub-Group agreed to meet again on 17 May and that the meeting might be expected to last for one week.

¹To be issued as MTN/NTM/W/38