At the first meeting of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade on 28 January 1980, the Chairman suggested that Parties to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade should submit to the GATT secretariat a written statement of the measures referred to in Article 15.7 of the Agreement in advance of the next meeting. The secretariat has since circulated a paper on this subject (TBT/W/1).

The attached statement has been received from the delegation of Brazil.

Other statements will be issued as addenda to this document.

1. The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade signed by Brazil on 28 December 1979 entered into force for Brazil on 1 January 1980 in accordance with Article 15.6.

2. It should be noted, however, that as anticipated to present signatories of the Agreement and other interested parties at the time of the negotiation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, activities in Brazil in the field of adoption of standards, drafting of technical regulations and rules for certification systems only recently are being intensified and restructured and, accordingly, some of the activities stipulated in the Agreement, notably notifications and notices, are not yet fully operational or do not yet cover all product sectors. A brief outline of TBT Agreement related activities under way or being implemented in Brazil is furnished below.

3. A major step as regards the development of industrial standardization and quality certification in Brazil has been the establishment of the National System of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality - SINMETRO - by Law 5,966 of 11 December 1973. The System is composed of two branches, for normative and executive functions respectively.

4. Its main entity and normative branch is the National Council for Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality - CONMETRO - which operates through a Plenary and a number of Sectorial Chambers, besides its Secretariat. The Plenary
includes representatives of sixteen Ministries, the National Confederation of Industry, the National Confederation of Trade, a National Institute of Standardization, a National Institute of Industrial Quality, and a representative of the consumers. As of date, CONMETRO has established five Sectorial Chambers: for Chemistry and Food Products, for Metal-Mechanics and Transportation, for Electro-Electronics and Energy, for Civil Engineering and Transportation, and for the Agroindustry.

5. The Council's responsibility includes, inter alia, (a) to formulate, co-ordinate and supervise policy on industrial standardization and certification of quality of industrial products; (b) to promote voluntary standardization activities; (c) to establish standards for industrial materials and products; (d) to establish criteria and procedures for certification of quality; and (e) to co-ordinate participation in international activities.

6. Executive functions within the System are the responsibility of the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality - INMETRO -, which operates through a number of Committees in charge of coordination of standardization activities in specific product sectors. INMETRO may request, on a case-by-case basis, authorization from CONMETRO to accredit public or private entities for carrying out activities within its area of competence.

7. This System's activities in the field of industrial standardization were initiated officially in 1976 and are progressing steadily. Also, studies started in 1978 for ultimately establishing a certification of conformity with standards and technical specifications.

8. The Brazilian Association for Standardization - ABNT -, a private entity, is required to publish all national standards in force, and since last November is starting to publish proposed national standards under study for certain industrial products. It is expected that in the near future this new activity will reach a stage where it covers the whole spectrum of national standards. As of now, only the Electric and Electronics Sector Committee of ABNT already publishes notices of standards under study.

9. Notices published by ABNT appear in the "Diario Oficial". Those published by the Electric and Electronics Sector Committee appear in "Boletim Informativo C.B.-3-Cobei". The length of time normally allowed for receiving comments on such draft national standards is approximately eight weeks.

10. TBT Agreement related activities in the agricultural and livestock sectors are the responsibility of the National Secretariat for Agricultural and Livestock Protection - SNAD - which operates through two branches: the Secretariat for Inspection of Animal Products and the Secretariat for Inspection of Vegetable Products. SNAD's responsibilities include, inter alia, standardization and classification of agricultural and livestock products, including those destined for human consumption, as laid out in
Decree 69.502 of 5 November 1971: standardization of beverages (Law 5.823 of 1972) and standardization of vegetable products and by-products (Decree 82.110 of 1978).

11. Standardization activities are carried out by SNAD through a number of Chambers, with active participation of the private sector concerned. No notices of draft standards are published, as previous knowledge by the private entities concerned is always assured. Resulting national standards are published in "Diario Oficial".

12. The "Enquiry Point" established in Brazil for the purposes of the TBT Agreement is:

Divisão de Política Comercial
Sala 536 - (TBT Enquiry Point)
Ministério das Relações Exteriores
Brasília

13. Signatories wishing to consult on matters related to the operation of the TBT Agreement should communicate in writing with the above-mentioned Enquiry Point or with the Permanent Delegation of Brazil in Geneva.

14. Names for consideration when the establishment of a Panel is decided by signatories are being transmitted to the GATT secretariat.