The following communication, dated 17 January 1989, has been received from the delegation of Mexico.

1. On 26 January 1988 a new Law was published in the "Diario Oficial", which came into force immediately and constitutes the legal infrastructure to fulfil the commitments acquired by Mexico under the Code. This Law has been transmitted to the secretariat and was published in document TBT/1/Add.36/Suppl.2.

2. A Regulation, currently being drafted, is to be implemented soon in order to regulate the Law.

3. On 10 March 1988 the Code on Technical Barriers to Trade came into force for Mexico since acceptance was formally notified on 9 February.

4. On 20 April 1988 a Decree was published in the "Diario Oficial" by which the Code on Technical Barriers to Trade has become part of domestic law.

Regarding paragraph A.2 of document TBT/16/Rev.4, Mexico's answers are as follows:

(a) Obligatory Mexican Official Standards are published in full in the "Diario Oficial de la Federación" which constitutes the Official Gazette of the United Mexican States. Other Non-Obligatory Standards are published in full in the "Gaceta de Industria, Comercio y Servicios" and their titles in the "Diario Oficial de la Federación".

Although the new Mexican Law does not contain a textual statement regarding announcements concerning Draft Standards, it can be broadly interpreted from Article 59, paragraph III, that in pursuance of a Commission's Recommendation Concerning Proceedings on Draft Standards, it is to be understood that in accordance with paragraph VII, the Commission has implicit powers to
implement any measure it sees fit regarding the drafting of standards such as the announcement or giving of public notice that work is proceeding on Draft Standards. Accordingly, through the Commission, the Mexican Government intends to notify the National Consultative Committees, which are composed of representatives from the different sectors of the economy (see Article 54), that work is proceeding on Draft Standards.

(b) Although the new Mexican Law does not provide for a comment period, it specifically establishes the possibility to review, modify and expand standards at any time.

(c) The "Dirección General de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales" (Directorate-General for International Trade Negotiations) will be the main enquiry point. The new Mexican Law provides for the establishment of National Consultative Committees that will assist the Directorate-General in this task and will be organized by specific sectors or branches of industry.

Address: Dirección General de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales de la Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial
Av. Alfonso Reyes No. 30, 9° Piso
C.P. 06140
Mexico, D.F.
Telex: 1775840
Telefax: 286 15 51

(d) The Mexican body responsible for receiving and resolving any request for consultations as provided for in Article 14 of the Code is the following:

Dirección General de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales
Av. Alfonso Reyes No. 30, 9° Piso
C.P. 06140
Mexico, D.F.
Telex: 1775840
Telefax: 286 15 51

(e) Other agencies with specific functions under the Agreement are:

Dirección General de Normas de la Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial
Puente de Tecamachalco No. 6, Piso 3
Lomas de Tecamachalco,
Edo. de México

(f) Since the Code has become part of Mexican domestic law, all its authorities are obliged to fulfil its provisions.