The following communication, dated 21 January 1988, has been received from the Nordic countries with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Group.

With a view to contributing to the expeditious fulfilment of the Negotiating Objective, the Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) hereby submit a proposal in respect of modalities, procedures and implementation schedules regarding the negotiations on tropical products:

1. Establishment of formula for reducing or eliminating tariffs on tropical products on the broadest possible basis, including in their processed and semi-processed forms. Formula to be designed so as to adequately address, inter alia, the issue of harmonization. Agreement on such a formula to be reached by 1988, subsequent to which participants shall present their individual product lists and implementation plans with the objective of starting implementation of tariff cuts as of 1 January 1989; maximum period of implementation: 5 years.

2. Request/offer procedure as supplement to formula with the aim of further reduction of or elimination of tariffs on specific products. Time-frame for implementation of results: cf. 1 above.

3. Participants granting preferences under GSP schemes to unilaterally make special efforts to further improve their schemes and to retain all GSP preferences applicable for tropical products for a period of x years, starting from 1 January 1989.

4. Request/offer procedure with the aim of reducing or eliminating NTMs affecting trade in tropical products. Time-frame for implementation of results: cf. 1 above.

5. Initiation of thorough examination of desirability and feasibility of creating preferences of additional benefit to the least-developed countries (LLDCs).

6. With a view to ensuring broadest possible participation in the negotiations, participants are to grant concessions under 1-4 above in a manner fully consistent with the general principles governing negotiations, implying, inter alia, that developing countries are expected to make contributions in conformity with section B (v) and (vi) of the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round, and that special attention shall be given to the particular situation and problems of the LLDCs.