IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY IN BILATERAL STANDARDS-RELATED AGREEMENTS IN THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Revised Text of Proposal by the United States

1. At the time of promulgation, Parties shall notify the GATT secretariat of agreements reached through formal bilateral standards-related discussions.

2. Agreements subject to the notification requirement in paragraph one shall include those that concern testing and inspection, harmonization of standards and regulations, or, other general policies on standards-related issues and:
   2.1 have, or could have, a significant effect on trade; and,
   2.2 are concluded between Parties, or between Parties and private bodies (or systems) or regional bodies (or systems) in other Parties.

3. Parties shall ensure that notifications to the GATT secretariat include:
   3.1 the names of adherents to bilateral agreements;
   3.2 whether or not the agreements were concluded under provisions of the TBT Agreement;
   3.3 the ministries, departments or agencies responsible for their implementation;
   3.4 the title of agreements;
   3.5 the effective dates of adoption and entry into force;
   3.6 the products or sectors covered; and,
   3.7 a summary of the general provisions of the agreements.

4. Upon request, inquiry points shall provide additional reasonable information on the provisions of such agreements.

5. Upon request, Parties are encouraged to enter into consultations with other Parties for the purpose of concluding similar agreements or of arranging for the participation in such agreements.¹

¹Revised text