

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

LDC/M/10¹
10 March 1964

Special Distribution

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF A GROUP OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON 5 MARCH 1964

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The tenth in a series of weekly meetings of a group of less-developed countries was held on 5 March 1964 under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. E. Letts, Ambassador of Peru.
2. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Dahomey, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Southern Rhodesia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.
3. In clarification of the composition and the membership of the present group of less-developed countries, the Chairman explained that this Group was not formally established but had developed itself gradually with the passage of time. The meetings were of an informal nature and should not be identified in any way with the formal meetings of the GATT. Those less-developed countries who wished to participate in the deliberations of this Group attended the meetings on a voluntary basis. For this reason no official invitation had been issued to individual less-developed countries to join the Group or to attend its meetings. On the other hand the representatives who had shown their interest in the meetings were kept informed of the date, time and place of the Group's meetings.

¹In paragraph 2 of the minutes of the last meeting of the Group (LDC/M/9) add "Chile" after "Ceylon".

4. After having explained the status of the Group and its meetings, the Chairman informed the members of the Group that, in the last meeting of the Committee on the Legal and Institutional Framework of GATT in Relation to Less-Developed Countries, a stage had been reached where it was considered desirable to establish a small drafting committee, consisting of representatives of less-developed as well as developed countries, to look into the different proposals so far submitted for the new "Model Chapter on Trade and Development", with a view to harmonizing the different suggestions contained therein and to evolve a version of the Chapter which would be acceptable to all contracting parties. As the drafting committee was expected to consist of six or eight members, the members of the Group were invited to nominate representatives from among themselves, whom they wished to look after the interests of less-developed countries in the meetings of the drafting committee. After having considered several alternatives it was decided that less-developed countries should be represented at the drafting committee by seven members, one each from Brazil, Chile, Dahomey, India, Israel, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic.

5. As regards the most convenient time for the meetings of the Group, it was suggested that if possible these meetings should be convened every Monday as had originally been planned. This should, however, not prevent the Group from holding meetings on other days if pressure of work during the session or other considerations should make this seem desirable.

6. The next meeting of the Group will be held on Monday 9 March 1964 at 11 a.m. in Salle VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva.