

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

Spec(79)22

19 October 1979

Expansion of Trade Among Developing Countries

Ad Hoc Meeting of Developing Countries
25/26 October 1979

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Check-List of Documents

1. As background information in connexion with Item 5 of the Agenda of the ad hoc meeting of developing countries scheduled for 25 and 26 October (Spec(79)19), this note briefly describes the basic documentation and data made available to developing countries and relevant international organizations pursuant to the technical work programme carried out by the secretariat. Further technical documentation produced by the secretariat would be expected to take account of the suggestions made at the meeting and the need to provide the necessary assistance and support to delegations in the operational stages of negotiations. In this connexion, it is intended to computerize the latest information available on tariffs and trade among developing countries so as to show trade flows among developing countries broken down at the tariff line level together with information on non-tariff measures.

Airgram (GATT/AIR/UNNUMBERED)

2. A GATT airgram dated 27 September 1979 invited all interested developing countries, both members and non-members of GATT, to be represented at the meeting to be held on 25/26 October 1979 relating basically to the consideration of how further progress might be made towards the initiation of a new round of trade negotiations among developing countries on a global basis.

Draft Agenda (Spec(79)19)

3. A draft agenda for the meeting proposed by the secretariat has been distributed to participants as Spec(79)19.

Trade negotiations among developing countries (Spec(79)11, CPC/W/68 and CPC/W/70)

4. Spec(79)11, recently prepared and circulated for the meeting on 25 October, draws attention to some points relevant to the scope and objectives of a new round of trade negotiations among developing countries. In addition to discussing certain data relating to existing and potential trade flows among developing countries, the note takes up various elements of relevance to possible objectives including existing preferential arrangements, participation, non-application, tariffs and non-tariff measures in terms of scope and coverage, trade-related measures, technical assistance and procedures.

5. CPC/W/68 and CPC/W/70 are earlier documents initially produced for consideration of the Committee of Participating Countries (which administers the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries). CPC/W/68 outlines, on a preliminary basis, possible objectives, modalities and procedures for a further round of trade negotiations among developing countries on a global basis. CPC/W/70 briefly describes the technical work being undertaken by the secretariat at that time and contains some further comments on objectives, modalities and procedures in the light of discussions with delegations.

Country studies

6. At their request, studies were prepared for each of fifty-two countries, providing information on their commercial policy situations including production, development plans, tariff structures, import régimes, trade flows (exports and imports) and trade plans and balance-of-payments situation. The work was based on 182 categories and sub-categories of products covering all items in the CCCN generally ordered according to stages of processing. A listing of the countries for which these studies were prepared is contained in document CPC/W/70.

Trade matrices (LDC/TS/1 and LDC/TS/45)

7. The tabulations show, for all goods moving in international trade in 1974 and 1975, broken down into the 182 categories and sub-categories of products referred to in the previous paragraph, trade between individual developing countries both at inter-regional and intra-regional levels, taking especially into account regional and sub-regional economic integration groupings. They are designed to provide a point of reference for the identification of significant trade flows between developing countries which could be developed further on the basis of mutual complementarity. These tabulations will be updated and refined from time to time in the operational stages of the negotiations.

Developing country importers and main developing country suppliers (LDC/TS/46)

8. On the basis of the trade matrices, tabulations have been prepared to show more precisely the developing country importers of the categories and sub-categories of products identified and the main developing country suppliers to each market listed.

Collection of basic data (Spec(78)26)

9. Paragraph 23 of this document contains some preliminary observations on the scope for action by developing countries at the trade policy level with a view to furthering trade expansion among developing countries on a global basis.

Product identification (Spec(78)26/Add.1)

10. Sample tabulations for a number of countries showing their main exports and principal developing country markets for each item are provided. These tabulations are being expanded to cover exports and imports for all countries interested in the negotiations.

Rules and certification of origin (LDC/TS/47)

11. The note reviews the experience gained in the operation of rules of origin in the context of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries and of the GSP, taking also into account the work of the Customs Co-operation Council in the areas of rules, certification and control of origin.

Payments arrangements among developing countries (LDC/TS/38)

12. This document contains a description of normal channels of settlement and payments among developing countries, as well as the experience of payments and credit arrangements at the regional level in connexion with the expansion of trade among developing countries. The purpose of the study is to permit delegations to assess the relevance of payments arrangements among developing countries to efforts to expand trade among these countries on the basis of negotiations on tariffs and non-tariff measures.

Sources of information on market data and marketing and distribution channels in some developing countries (LDC/TS/49)

13. This glossary contains a listing of material available in connexion with such matters as export marketing and information facilities in developing countries, their import and distribution systems, market characteristics and requirements, marking, packaging and labelling, shipping and insurance regulations, etc., which could be useful references in connexion with a further round of trade negotiations among developing countries.

14. The transport of goods among developing countries is also under study in the secretariat.

15. The documentation referred to in paragraphs 12-14 are intended to assist interested delegations to take account of other factors in trade-related fields which are relevant to the expansion of trade among developing countries. More detailed studies on these may be found elsewhere.