

REPORT (1997) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

1. The Committee held its eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh meetings on 14 February, 20 June, 3 October, 13 and 18 November 1997 (G/TBT/M/7-10) respectively, and Mr. H. M. Tong (Hong Kong) was Chairman. At those meetings, the Committee heard statements on the implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of Members informed the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. Several measures were brought to the attention of the Committee by Members who raised concerns about the potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement of those measures.
2. At its eighth meeting, the Committee carried out its Second Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement under Article 15.3 based on background documentation contained in G/TBT/4, and its Second Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards in Annex 3 based on background documentation contained in WTO TBT Standards Code Directory and G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.1. The Committee also heard statements on technical assistance.
3. At its eighth, ninth and tenth meetings, the Committee prepared for the First Triennial Review of the Operation and Implementation of the Agreement under Article 15.4. The Triennial Review was carried out at its eleventh meeting (G/TBT/5).
4. A Technical Working Group was established by the Committee to study certain ISO/IEC Guides and how they might contribute to furthering the objectives of Articles 5 and 6 of the Agreement. The Working Group held meetings on 13 February, 18 June and 2 October (G/TBT/M/7-9).
5. Representatives of the FAO, IEC, IMF, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIE, UNCTAD, UN/ECE, WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission, WHO and the World Bank attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity. ACP, ALADI, EFTA and OIML were granted observer status on an ad hoc basis.