

## Part I

### BELGRADE DECLARATION ON THE GLOBAL SYSTEM OF TRADE PREFERENCES AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Negotiating Committee on the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing members of the Group of 77, meeting at ministerial level in Belgrade on 11-13 April 1988,

#### **I**

Reaffirming the spirit of solidarity and the deep commitment to strengthen economic co-operation and collective self-reliance of the developing countries,

Believing that economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) constitutes an important contribution to collective action aiming at equitable restructuring of international economic relation,

Convinced that the exchange of trade concessions on a preferential basis constitutes a major instrument for the promotion of trade and overall economic co-operation among developing countries, contributing to a more balanced and equitable development of the world economy and international economic relations,

Reaffirming their resolute support for developing countries and peoples subject to aggression, occupation, domination and racism to regain their national rights, including control of their resources and economic activities, in order to, inter alia, facilitate their meaningful participation in the GSTP,

Noting that in spite of the serious economic difficulties faced by developing countries, arising from persistent protectionism, the mounting debt burden deterioration of the terms of trade, the steep and consistent decline in commodity prices and acute balance-of-payments difficulties, the developing countries have not been discouraged in the effective pursuit of their development aspirations and are committed to carrying forward their mutual trade co-operation through the GSTP,

Recalling the Mexico City Action Programme on ECDC of September 1976, the Arusha Programme of Collective Self-Reliance of 1979, the Caracas Programme of Action of 1981 and the Ministerial Declaration in the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) of October 1982,

Underlining the importance of the Ministerial Declaration of New Delhi on the Global System of Trade Preferences of July 1985 which established the general negotiating approach, the basic element and a timetable for the setting up of the Global System of Trade Preferences,

Stressing the far reaching significance of the Ministerial Declaration of Brasilia of May 1986 on the Launching of the First Round of Negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries,

Recalling the Final Act signed by Ministers at Brasilia on 23 May 1986, through which the Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences was adopted as a provisional legal framework,

Having regard to paragraph 2 (c) of Decision on L/4903 of the Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 28 November 1979 on preferential trade concessions among developing countries,

Noting that the Negotiating Committee on the Global System of Trade Preferences in Geneva has successfully accomplished the specific tasks entrusted to it by the Ministers in Part IV of the Brasilia Declaration,

Recognising that the Agreement in the GSTP, being the first global endeavour of the developing countries members of the group of 77 to enhance mutual economic co-operation on a definitive legal basis, constitutes an historic development of great political and economic significance,

## II

1. Takes note of the conclusion of the First Round of Negotiations;
2. Having adopted the Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries;
3. Calls upon the signatories to the Agreement to conclude expeditiously the ratification procedures;
4. Urges the member of the Group of 77 to further strengthen the Global System of Trade Preferences and to achieve maximum participation;
5. Further urges all participants to fully implement all commitments regarding special treatment for and additional measures in favour of the least developing countries;
6. Calls upon signatories and other members of the group of 77 who would signify their intention to participate in the next round of negotiations to undertake preparatory work for that round. The preparatory process should, to the extent possible, encompass the work of evolving the procedure of various components and modalities of the GSTP and the rules and the guidelines concerning the extension of negotiated concessions. Upon the entry into force of the Agreement, the Committee of Participants will further carry this task forward with a view to launching of the negotiations. The next round of negotiations will facilitate the process of accession and carry forward the exchange of trade concessions;
7. Request the GSTP Project to continue providing supportive activities and technical assistance to signatories and other members of the Group of 77 in the preparatory work and the round of negotiations.

### III

The Negotiating Committee meeting at ministerial level in Belgrade,

Is confident that the collective achievements in Belgrade will:

Contribute to an accelerated growth and diversification of trade and production of developing countries;

Enhance co-operation in complementary measures to support trade expansion among the members of the Group 77, including financial arrangements, payments arrangements, exchange of technical skills, and cooperation in the field of shipping and transport, as well as joint ventures among developing countries;

Promote greater co-ordination among them in their interactions, negotiations and co-operation with developed countries, and

Contribute significantly to the growth and expansion of the world trade and economy.

13 April 1988

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