

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE UNCTAD BOARD AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES

Note by the Director-General

On the basis of Recommendation A.V.1 of the Final Act of UNCTAD, the United Nations General Assembly on 8 January 1965 adopted Resolution 1995 (XIX) which provides that the UNCTAD Board shall establish a committee on commodities which, inter alia, will carry out the functions performed by the Commission on International Commodity Trade (CICT) and the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA).¹ The Resolution further provides that the ICCICA shall be maintained as an advisory body of the Board.

At the twenty-first plenary meeting of its first session, on 25 April 1965, the UNCTAD Board adopted terms of reference of the new Advisory Committee. These are annexed to this note.

As stated in the provisional report by the Board on its first session (document TD/B/L.31, of 17 May 1965, p.74, paragraph 202): "It is envisaged that the Advisory Committee would be constituted at the second session of the Board, at which time the Chairman of the Committee would be elected. The Secretary General of the Conference informed the Board that he would recommend three persons to sit on the Advisory Committee at the second session of the Board and it is assumed that the nominations by FAO and GATT will have been made by that time".

The Director-General has now received a communication from the Secretary General of the UNCTAD, requesting nomination of the person representing GATT on the Advisory Committee, which is to be established at the second session of the Board, convened for 24 August 1965.

¹The functions of ICCICA, as stated in ECOSOC Resolution 557 F, paragraph 7, of 5 August 1954 were: (i) convening intergovernmental study groups, (ii) making recommendations to the Secretary General of the United Nations on the convening of commodity conferences, and (iii) co-ordinating the activities of individual commodity study groups and councils.

The attention of the Council is drawn to the composition of the Advisory Committee. According to the Decision of the Board, the Advisory Committee will consist of six members, one of whom to be nominated by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT. The Chairman will be elected by the UNCTAD Board. The former ICCICA had a membership of four, the Chairman being appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations upon nomination by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
BOARD AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES

Having regard to paragraph 23 of Resolution 1995 (XIX) of the General Assembly,

An Advisory Committee to the Trade and Development Board and to the Committee on Commodities is hereby established to replace the former Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA).

1. Composition. The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members:
 - (a) a person elected by the Trade and Development Board, who shall be Chairman of the Committee;
 - (b) a person specifically concerned with agricultural primary commodities nominated by FAO;
 - (c) a person nominated by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT;
 - (d) a person particularly concerned with non-agricultural primary commodities;
 - (e) a person of wide experience in the problems confronting countries undergoing development whose economies are primarily dependent on the production and international marketing of primary commodities;
 - (f) a person particularly familiar with the problems of State trading in primary commodities.

Each member of the Committee shall be chosen on the basis of his expert knowledge and experience in the particular field to which his membership relates, and shall serve in the capacity of an expert. Members of the Committee mentioned in sub-paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) above shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the Secretary General of the Conference. They shall have a term of office of three years. Members shall be eligible for re-appointment.

So far as is practicable the principle of rotation of membership shall apply so that continuity of work of the Committee is maintained.

2. Terms of reference

Upon the request of the Board, the Committee on Commodities or the Secretary General of the Conference, the Advisory Committee shall advise the Board, the Committee on Commodities and the Secretary General on matters concerning commodity arrangements and such other matters referred to it from time to time.

The Committee shall report to the Board and to the Committee on Commodities through the Secretary General of the Conference.