

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MDF/W/35  
24 May 1985

Special Distribution

Original: English

## WORKING PARTY ON TRADE IN CERTAIN NATURAL RESOURCE PRODUCTS

### Fish and Fisheries Products

#### Statement made by the Observer from the FAO at the meeting of the Working Party on 7 May 1985

During the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries - which is open to all Member Nations and which took place in Rome from 22-26 April 1985 - suitable arrangements for a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products were discussed. The Committee agreed to establish a Sub-Committee on Fish Trade to serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products. Membership in the Sub-Committee will be open to all Member Nations of FAO. Non-Member States of the Organization that are Members of the United Nations, of any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, may be admitted by the FAO Council to membership of the Sub-Committee.

The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee will be as follows:

"The Sub-Committee shall provide a forum for consultations on technical and economic aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products including pertinent aspects of production and consumption. In particular, the work of the Sub-Committee will include:

- (a) periodic review of the situation and outlook of principal fishery commodity markets covering all factors influencing them;
- (b) on the basis of special studies, discussion of specific fish trade problems and possible solutions;
- (c) discussion of suitable measures to promote international trade in fish and fishery products and formulation of recommendations to improve the participation of developing countries in this trade, including trade-related services;

- (d) in conjunction with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, formulation of recommendations for the promotion of international quality standards and the harmonization of quality control and inspection procedures and regulations;
- (e) consultation and formulation of recommendations for economically viable fishery commodity development, including processing methods, the upgrading of products and production of final products in developing countries."

FAO, as always, is ready to collaborate with other organizations, and we hope that this cooperation with GATT will be strengthened in the future.