

PROGRAMME FOR THE LIBERALIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TRADE
IN MANUFACTURES AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES OF INTEREST TO
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES*

REPORT ON ITEMS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
NOTE BY THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT

1. At its resumed first session, the Committee on Manufactures noted the secretariat documents TD/B/C.2/8 and Corr. 1 and TD/B/C.2/9 as progress reports on items of export interest to the developing countries and describing some of the barriers hampering their exports to the developed countries. It was noted that further information would be made available by the developing countries in order that this basic information might be completed. In addition, it was suggested that in compiling the next report, the secretariat of UNCTAD should take into account relevant information already supplied to the GATT secretariat, and that the information to be presented should be tabulated in a more detailed form and not only up to the three-digit level of the SITC.¹

2. Accordingly, the Secretary-General in his letter of 31 May 1966 requested member States which had not supplied information, and also those which wished to revise the material already supplied to provide by 31 July 1966 the supplementary information required. Replies have been received from the following States: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Turkey, Western Samoa, Yugoslavia.

3. In preparing the tables in Annex A to this document the secretariat has, in accordance with the Committee's request, taken into account not only the replies received from the member States mentioned above, but also the relevant information supplied to the GATT secretariat as recorded in GATT document COM.TD/23 and addenda. Furthermore, as requested by the Committee the tables have, in general been prepared according to four-digit or five-digit classification (SITC).

4. The secretariat of UNCTAD has used, in compiling these tables, the definition of semi-manufactures and manufactures given in document TD/B/C.2/3 of 2 July 1965; that document had been prepared jointly by the United Nations Statistical Office and the UNCTAD secretariat at the request of the Special Committee on Preferences. A further explanation in respect of the definition used was provided in document TD/B/C.2/L.10 which was before the Committee at its resumed first session.

5. Annex B to this document gives particulars of the tariff rates in force in the European Economic Community (EEC), the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Japan in respect of the selected semi-manufactured and manufactured products of export interest to the developing countries. This selection was made primarily on the basis of there being actual exports from the developing countries. The tariff rates have been obtained from the national tariff schedules of the developed countries mentioned above, as well as from the GATT secretariat document COM.TD/7.

6. Since the SITC items, especially at the three-digit and four-digit level, do not correspond precisely with the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN), the rates given in Annex B can only be considered as approximate. The rates have been shown, however, in order to illustrate the likely magnitude of the tariff barriers in the major developed countries in respect of particular items of export interest to the developing countries.

7. For the United Kingdom, the British preferential tariff has been indicated along with the most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariff. In the case of the EEC, the preferential tariff for associated countries is similar to the preferential rates applied in respect of the trade of the countries members of EEC with each other. The rates will, therefore, be zero when the duties on trade among these

*United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Trade and Development Board, Committee on Manufactures, Second Session, Geneva, 4 July 1967, Item 5 of proposed revised provisional agenda.

¹ See report of the Committee on Manufactures on its resumed first session (TD/B/69-TD/B/C.2/14), para. 26.