



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.14/WP.1/66
14 August 1973

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Eighth ECA/OAU Joint Meeting
on Trade and Development

Geneva, 9-17 August 1973

AFRICAN POSITION PAPER

The African delegations attending the Preparatory committee on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations met on several occasions in Geneva in order to harmonize the African position vis-a-vis the Trade Negotiations, and have recommended that the following main points might guide Africa's approach to the Negotiations:

1. The principle of non-reciprocity shall govern the basic African position in the Trade Negotiations.
2. There should be no exclusion of any products of interest to African countries. Priority attention should be accorded to raw, semi-processed and processed agricultural and mineral products, particularly tropical products and including actual and potential industrial products of interest to African countries.
3. The trade negotiations must aim to secure a substantial increase in the foreign exchange earnings of African countries, diversification of their exports, acceleration of the rate of growth of their trade, increase in their share in world trade, substantial improvement in the conditions of access for their products and stable, equitable and remunerative prices for their products.
4. Considering that a large number of least developed countries are in Africa, the special position of the least developed among developing countries should be recognized and the negotiations should aim at substantial improvement in the over-all well-being of the least developed countries by giving them differentiated or special treatment in the context of any general, specific or preferential measure taken in favour of the developing countries as a whole during the negotiations.

5. The negotiations should cover both tariff and non-tariff barriers, including other obstacles and tariff escalation that affect products of interest to African countries with a view to their immediate removal.
6. The negotiations should seek a new, fair and equitable international division of labour in which both developed and developing countries can participate so as to contribute to an acceleration of the economic and social development of African countries and the improvement in the standards of living of African peoples.
7. The negotiations should ensure that complementary economic objectives be the subject of parallel negotiations in the competent forums in such matters as industrial co-operation, development financing, commodity arrangement, transport, access to technology, monetary reform, and insurance with a view to ensuring that African countries and particularly the least developed among them, are enabled to increase their export potential and make more effective use of the trade concessions.
8. The Trade Negotiations Committee should be open to all African countries whether or not contracting parties to the General Agreement and whether or not they have subscribed to the Ministerial Declaration on MTN provided that at an appropriate time they express their wish to participate in the negotiations.
9. Participation by non-contracting parties will not oblige them to accede to the General Agreement in order to fully enjoy the benefits accruing from the negotiations.
10. Consideration shall be given to improvements in the international framework for the conduct of world trade which might be desirable in the light of progress in the negotiations. It must be ensured that any measures introduced as a result of any reform are consistent with the overall objectives and principles of the trade negotiations. Any change in the international framework for the conduct of international trade shall take full account of preferential treatment according to African developing countries by developed countries and of their lower stage of development.
11. In view of Africa's special status in the negotiations, it is important that the African position pertaining to the negotiations is harmonized with their individual or collective position regarding trade relations with the developed countries or groups of developed countries so as to ensure that their present or future trade interests are not adversely affected.
12. The African delegations participating in the Preparatory Committee for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations request the ECA/OAU to participate in the Negotiations as well as service these delegations during the course of the Negotiations.
13. The results of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations shall not prejudice in any way the interests of African countries in their present or future relations with developed countries or group of developed countries. Moreover, if the preferential advantages which they benefit are adversely affected by the results of these negotiations developed countries shall take additional measures to compensate them.