

Article 4

1. The participating countries shall fully bear in mind, in the conduct of their trade policies in the field of textiles, that they are, through the acceptance of, or accession to, this Arrangement, committed to a multilateral approach in the search for solutions to the difficulties that arise in this field.

2. However, participating countries may, consistently with the basic objectives and principles of this Arrangement, conclude bilateral agreements on mutually acceptable terms in order, on the one hand, to eliminate real risks of market disruption (as defined in Annex A) in importing countries and disruption to the textile trade of exporting countries, and on the other hand to ensure the expansion and orderly development of trade in textiles and the equitable treatment of participating countries.

3. Bilateral agreements maintained under this Article shall, on overall terms, including base levels and growth rates, be more liberal than measures provided for in Article 3 of this Arrangement. Such bilateral agreements shall be designed and administered to facilitate the export in full of the levels provided for under such agreements and shall include provisions assuring substantial flexibility for the conduct of trade thereunder, consistent with the need for orderly expansion of such trade and conditions in the domestic market of the importing country concerned. Such provisions should encompass areas of base levels, growth, recognition of the increasing interchangeability of natural, artificial and synthetic fibres, carry forward, carryover, transfers from one product grouping to another and such other arrangements as may be mutually satisfactory to the parties to such bilateral agreements.

4. The participating countries shall communicate to the Textiles Surveillance Body full details of agreements entered into in terms of this Article within thirty days of their effective date. The Textiles Surveillance Body shall be informed promptly when any such agreements are modified or discontinued. The Textiles Surveillance Body may make such recommendations as it deems appropriate to the parties concerned.

Article 5

Restrictions on imports of textile products under the provisions of Article 3 and 4 shall be administered in a flexible and equitable manner and over-categorization shall be avoided. Participating countries shall, in consultation, provide for arrangements for the administration of the quotas and restraint levels, including the proper arrangement for allocation of quotas among the exporters, in such a way as to facilitate full utilization of