

VI SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

22. Ministers should agree at Montreal on the general framework for negotiations on sanitary and phytosanitary measures to be pursued in 1989 and 1990. This approach should permit the identification and elimination of sanitary and phytosanitary measures used as barriers to trade, in accordance with the terms of Article XX of the GATT. Negotiations should result in agreement to harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary measures which should encompass multilateral standards and, where not feasible, in the acceptance of suitable principles of equivalency in the application of measures. Effective procedures for notification, consultation, dispute settlement and compensation should be contemplated to reinforce the results of this negotiation.

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The detailed work which has been undertaken within the Cairns Group elaborating these concepts will be of benefit to the Negotiating Group. This material will be made available to facilitate agreement on the approaches outlined in this proposal.