

Activities

Developing an environment/trade and development agenda

19. Governments should encourage GATT, UNCTAD and other relevant international and regional economic institutions to examine, in accordance with their respective mandates and competences, the following propositions and principles:

(a) Elaborate adequate studies for the better understanding of the relationship between trade and environment for the promotion of sustainable development;

(b) Promote a dialogue between trade, developmental and environmental communities;

(c) In those cases when trade measures related to environment are used, ensure transparency and compatibility with international obligations;

(d) Deal with the root causes of environment and development problems in a manner which avoids the adoption of environmental measures resulting in unjustified restrictions on trade;

(e) ^{Spec to} [Avoid the use of trade restrictions or distortions ~~and subsidies~~ as a means to offset differences in cost arising from differences in environmental standards and regulations since their application could lead to trade distortions and increase protectionist tendencies, ~~bearing in mind that governmental subsidies may be considered useful in certain circumstances, such as during transition periods or in stimulating development of environmental technologies;~~]

(f) Ensure that environment-related regulations or standards, including those related to health and safety standards, do not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade;

(g) Ensure that special factors affecting environment and trade policies in the developing countries are borne in mind in the application of environmental standards as well as in the use of any trade measures. It is worth noting that standards that are valid in the most advanced countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted social cost for the developing countries;

(h) Encourage participation of developing countries in multilateral agreements through mechanisms such as special transitional rules;

(i) Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transborder or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus. Domestic measures targeted to achieve certain environmental objectives may need trade measures to render them effective. Should trade policy measures be found necessary for