

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

All APEC participants agreed that the successful and gradual reintegration of textiles and clothing trade is key for the success of the Uruguay Round overall. This area is important for both exporters and importers. APEC is conscious of the need to give leadership and new impetus to remove the current stalemate on the conditions for achieving a successful and realistic MTN outcome.

Specifically,

1. APEC participants have agreed that a reasonable transitional period for a definitive termination of the MFA system of bilateral export restraints arrangements would be 10 years.
2. All APEC participants need to review their current approach to the development of modalities for the reintegration of textiles and clothing under normal GATT rules. They accept the need to develop appropriate transitional safeguards.
3. All participants are willing to explore seriously whether an MFA based approach can deal in an equitable way with the concerns of participants in respect of import surges, new suppliers, growth rates and flexibility provisions.
4. APEC participants recognize that the efforts to liberalize textiles trade must be equitable without imposing unreasonable conditions.