

AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

PREAMBLE

*Having regard* to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Parties to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (hereinafter referred to as "Parties" and "this Agreement");

*Desiring* to further the objectives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as "General Agreement" or "GATT");

*Recognizing* the important contribution that international standards and certification systems can make in this regard by improving efficiency of production and facilitating the conduct of international trade;

*Desiring* therefore to encourage the development of such international standards and certification systems;

*Desiring* however to ensure that technical regulations and standards, including packaging, marking and labelling requirements, and methods for certifying conformity with technical regulations and standards do not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade;

*Recognizing* that no country should be prevented from taking measures necessary to ensure the quality of its exports, or for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, of the environment, or for the prevention of deceptive practices, subject to the requirement that they are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail or a disguised restriction on international trade;

*Recognizing* that no country should be prevented from taking measures necessary for the protection of its essential security interest;

*Recognizing* the contribution which international standardization can make to the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries;