

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

PREAMBLE

RECOGNIZING the great importance of production and trade in textile products of wool, man-made fibres and cotton for the economies of many countries, and their particular importance for the economic and social development of developing countries and for the expansion and diversification of their export earnings, and conscious also of the special importance of trade in textile products of cotton for many developing countries;

RECOGNIZING further the tendency for an unsatisfactory situation to exist in world trade in textile products and that this situation, if not satisfactorily dealt with, could work to the detriment of countries participating in trade in textile products, whether as importers or exporters, or both, adversely affect prospects for international co-operation in the trade field, and have unfortunate repercussions on trade relations generally;

NOTING that this unsatisfactory situation is characterized by the proliferation of restrictive measures, including discriminatory measures, that are inconsistent with the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and also that, in some importing countries, situations have arisen which, in the view of these countries, cause or threaten to cause disruption of their domestic markets;

DESIRING to take co-operative and constructive action, within a multilateral framework, so as to deal with the situation in such a way as to promote on a sound basis the development of production and expansion of trade in textile products and progressively to achieve the reduction of trade barriers and the liberalization of world trade in these products;

RECOGNIZING that, in pursuit of such action, the volatile and continually evolving nature of production and trade in textile products should be constantly borne in mind and the fullest account taken of such serious economic and social problems as exist in this field in both importing and exporting countries, and particularly in the developing countries;

RECOGNIZING further that such action should be designed to facilitate economic expansion and to promote the development of developing countries possessing the necessary resources, such as materials and technical skills, by providing larger opportunities for such countries, including countries that are, or that may shortly become, new entrants in the field of textile exports to increase their exchange earnings from the sale in world markets of products which they can efficiently produce;

RECOGNIZING that future harmonious development of trade in textiles particularly having regard to the needs of developing countries, also depends importantly upon matters outside the scope of this Agreement, and that such factors in this respect include progress leading both to the reduction of tariffs and to the maintenance and improvement of schemes of generalized preferences, in accordance with the Tokyo Declaration;

DETERMINED to have full regard to the principles and objectives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as the