

C. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations

Ministers should be invited to endorse harmonization of national regulations as a long-term goal and a work programme embodying the following objectives:

- (1) strengthen Article XX so that measures taken to protect human, animal or plant life or health are based on sound scientific evidence and recognize the principle of equivalency;
- (2) review existing notification and counter-notification procedures to ensure the existence of an effective notification process for national regulations;
- (3) develop a consultative process which allows opportunity for the bilateral resolution of disputes;
- (4) establish an effective, multilateral dispute settlement process within the GATT which provides the necessary input of scientific expertise and judgement, relying inter alia on the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the International Plant Protection Convention;
- (5) assess the possible effects on developing countries of the GATT rules and disciplines for sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and evaluate the need for technical assistance."

C) TRADE RULES ON GOODS

Virtually all international trade rules under the GATT are being overhauled in the Uruguay Round. There are four principal negotiating groups dealing with various issues related to trade rules.

GATT Articles (Negotiating Group 7)

At Montreal, Ministers directed that specific proposals be brought forward expeditiously to review existing GATT Articles. Work in the Negotiating Group is focussing on balance of payments (Articles XII and XVIII), state trading (Article XVII), regional groupings and territorial application (Article XXIV) and procedures for the modification of tariff concessions (Article XXVIII).