

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Committee of Participants on the Expansion of  
Trade in Information Technology Products**

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## **SUBMISSION FOR THE NON-TARIFF MEASURES WORK PROGRAMME**

### Communication from Chinese Taipei

The following communication, dated 21 September 2001, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Chinese Taipei.

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A. ISSUE

. Information regarding technical regulations on IT products should be posted on the Internet to ensure it is readily available.

B. PRODUCTS INVOLVED

All types of IT products.

C. IMPACT ON TRADE

. Since most countries require that many IT products meet certain technical regulations before they are allowed to be imported, it is crucial to make information regarding those regulations readily available. Notwithstanding transparency requirements provided for in Article X of GATT 1994 and Article X of Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, often it is the case that extra resources need to be committed just to gather all information needed to make IT products in conformity with the technical regulations of some countries. The lack of ready access to technical regulation information can become a non-tariff measure in certain instances.

The ultimate goal of eliminating technical barriers for trade in IT products can best be achieved by harmonizing standards and establishing the mutual recognition arrangements. However, the first step towards that goal ought to be making all technical regulations of each country readily and easily available to the business sector. With the popularity, as well as the easy access of the Internet nowadays, the best way to accomplish this is simply posting this information on the Internet.

Chinese Taipei would like, therefore, to suggest that ITA Participants post their technical regulations on the Internet to facilitate trade on IT products. We also suggest the Secretariat propose a standard format for each posting for the benefit of comparability. If it is so agreed, such a format can be discussed and endorsed at the next meeting.

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