

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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Council for Trade in Goods
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BANGLADESH - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXX

Draft Decision on Extension of Time-Limit

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT 1947, by their Decision of 18 July 1988¹, suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of GATT 1947 to the extent necessary to enable the Government of Bangladesh to implement the Harmonized System on 1 July 1988 and carry out negotiations subsequently;

Taking into account that, by successive Decisions, the time-limit of the waiver granted to Bangladesh has been extended until 31 October 1997²;

Considering that by a Decision of 31 January 1995³ the General Council established a list of waivers existing at the entry into force of the WTO Agreement, which included the waiver granted to Bangladesh for the establishment of a new Schedule LXX;

Considering that the documentation relevant to the transposition of Bangladesh's Schedule into the Harmonized System was circulated on 6 December 1990 in document SECRET/HS/29;

Noting that the Government of Bangladesh has initiated consultations under Article XXVIII with four countries and has concluded negotiations with two of them;

Noting that the Government of Bangladesh has made proposals to the remaining two trading partners and agreement has been reached with one, while reaction from the other is awaited;

Considering that the Government of Bangladesh has provided the assurance that it will make every effort to conclude negotiations as early as possible;

¹BISD, 35S/348.

²WT/L/209.

³WT/L/3 + Corr.1.

Considering that the Government of Bangladesh, having fulfilled the requirements of paragraph 1 of the Understanding in Respect of Waivers of Obligations under the GATT 1994 has, therefore, requested a further extension of the exemption of its obligations under Article II of GATT 1994⁴;

The General Council, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article IX of the WTO Agreement,

Decides, in view of the exceptional circumstances outlined above, to extend the waiver granted to Bangladesh by the Decision of 18 July 1988, until 30 April 1998.

⁴G/L/186.