

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF
THE COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE
IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

Approved by the Committee on 30 October 1997

The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the General Council¹ shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for meetings of the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (hereinafter referred to as "Committee"), except as provided below:

(i) All references to 'Member' or 'Members' shall be modified to refer to 'participant' or 'participants'², accordingly.

(ii) Rule 1 of Chapter I (Sessions) shall be modified to read as follows:

The Committee shall hold regular meetings, normally twice a year, to review developments related to the implementation of the Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products, and shall hold special meetings at the request of any participant or as otherwise necessary by invitation of the Chairperson.

(iii) Rule 5 of Chapter II (Agenda) is not applicable.

(iv) Rule 10 of Chapter IV (Observers) is not applicable. See attached Decision.

(v) Rule 11 of Chapter IV (Observers) is not applicable (see Rule 10).

(vi) Rule 12 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows:

The Committee shall elect a Chairperson³ among the representatives of participants or as otherwise decided.

¹WT/L/161

²As defined in the Ministerial Declaration in Trade in Information Technology Products (WT/MIN(96)/16) and Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (G/L/160).

³The Committee shall apply the relevant guidelines contained in the "Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" (WT/L/31).

(vii) Rule 13 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows:

If the Chairperson is absent from any meeting or part thereof, the Committee shall elect an interim Chairperson for that meeting or that part of the meeting.

(viii) Rule 14 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows:

If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Committee shall elect an interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson.

(ix) Rule 16 of Chapter VI (Conduct of business) is not applicable.

(x) Rule 33 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) shall be modified to read as follows:

All decisions of the Committee shall be taken by consensus.

(xi) Rule 34 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) is not applicable.

(xii) The provisions of Annex I (Rules for Airmail Ballots and Ballots Transmitted by Telegraph or Telefacsimile) are not applicable.

ATTACHMENT

Decision

Participation of observers in the Committee
of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 4 of the document on Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (G/L/160), the participants to the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products, hereinafter referred to as the 'Ministerial Declaration', decide as follows:

1. Members of the World Trade Organization which are not participants to the Ministerial Declaration and Governments which are observers to the Council for Trade in Goods may follow the proceedings of the Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products, hereinafter referred to as the 'Committee', in an observer capacity.
2. The Committee shall decide on the conditions of observership, including with respect to the provision of information by observers. Observers may participate in the discussions in accordance with paragraphs 9 to 11 of the guidelines of Annex 2 to WT/L/161, but decisions shall be taken only by participants.
3. The Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.
4. The Committee may invite, as appropriate, international intergovernmental organizations to participate in the Committee in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international intergovernmental organizations to participate in the Committee, in an observer capacity, shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee. In such considerations, the criteria and conditions for observer status for international intergovernmental organizations in the WTO (Annex 3 to WT/L/161) shall be taken into account.