

Committee on Government Procurement

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2003

Chairman: Mr. Jan-Peter Mout (the Netherlands)

1. The Chairman proposed the following agenda:
 - A. Negotiations under Article XXIV:7
 - B. Modifications to the Appendices to the Agreement
 - C. Accessions:
 - (i) *Streamlining the Accession Process*
 - (ii) *Applications*
 - *Jordan*
 - *Chinese Taipei*
 - *Other Specific Accessions*
 - D. Review of National Implementing Legislation
 - E. Other Business
 - (i) *Date of Next Meeting*
 - F. Election of Chairman for the Remainder of 2003 and for 2004
2. The Chairman noted that the provisional agenda of the meeting had been circulated to Parties in Airgram WTO/AIR/2149, and Parties had been sent an Annotated Agenda for the meeting (Job No. 5700, dated 25 July 2003).
3. The Committee adopted the agenda of the meeting as set out above and in that Annotated Agenda.
 - A. NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIV:7
4. The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Informal Group of the Committee on Government Procurement that had been held on 18-21 August 2003, during which negotiations had been pursued under Article XXIV:7 of the Agreement on Government Procurement. He said that the Group had carried forward work on the revision of the text of the Agreement by taking up the revised interim draft of the Agreement dated 8 August 2003, contained in a communication received from the

delegation of the United States (Job No. 6119). That communication incorporated comments that had been received on the previous draft text of 23 July 2003 (Job No. 5693) from the European Community; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Switzerland; and the United States.

5. In addition, during the informal meeting, the Group had had available to it the following documents:

- (a) a submission by Switzerland on Article V - Accession and Treatment for Developing and Least-developed Countries: Synthesis of Positions Drafted by Switzerland as Coordinator for Article V (Job No. 6028 (4287/Rev.1));
- (b) a submission by the European Community on Switzerland's Article V submission (Job No. 6054);
- (c) a submission by Chinese Taipei on Quad Responses to Chinese Taipei's Comments on 20 June 2003 GPA Review Text (Job No. 6117);
- (d) a submission by Canada on Revision of the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA): Comments on the Revised Interim Draft of 8 August 2003 (Job No. 6160);
- (e) a submission by Chinese Taipei: Revision of the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA): Comments on the Revised Interim Draft of 8 August 2003 (Job No. 6247);
- (f) a submission by Japan on Article XVI: Modifications and Rectifications to Coverage (Job No. 6322); and
- (g) a submission by Israel on Article V: Accession and Treatment of Developing and Least-Developed Countries: Israel's Comments on the Submission by Switzerland (informally distributed).

6. In addition to proposals for revision of the text that had been submitted in writing, a number of proposals to amend the revised text of 8 August 2003 had been made orally during the informal meeting. These had been incorporated into the revised text.

7. In reviewing the text of the Agreement, the Group had proceeded Article-by-Article through the whole Agreement. The Group had left aside those provisions that had been identified in the revised text as market access issues on the basis that such issues would be reverted to when the related elements of the Article XXIV:7 negotiations, namely those elements relating to expansion of coverage and elimination of discriminatory measures, would be the subject of discussion.

8. Overall, the Group had made significant progress in revising the text of the Agreement. Such progress made over the previous four days was reflected in the text of 21 August 2003, which was being circulated as a Note by the Chairman entitled "Revision of the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) as at 21 August 2003" (Job No. 6343).

9. The Group had provisionally agreed on the basic structure and drafting style of the Agreement. The text of 21 August 2003 reflected a significant re-organisation of the current Agreement. As part of the revision, the Group had consolidated within single Articles all of the provisions on related matters, which in the current Agreement were to be found in several Articles. At its meeting earlier that week, the Group had resolved differences on a substantial number of provisions.

10. In considering the next steps, the Group had noted that significant progress had been made in revising the text since intensive work had begun in late 2002. It was clear that some additional time would be necessary to complete the work. In order to capitalize on the efforts invested by all Members, it had been agreed that the work on the text should be completed as expeditiously as possible.

11. The Group had agreed that the aim should be to have provisional agreement on a revised text by spring 2004. It had been further agreed that the Group would meet on at least two more occasions before finalizing the text, starting with a meeting in the second half of November 2003. Finally, with regard to elements 2 and 3 of the work programme, the Group had agreed that a work programme to complete negotiations in accordance with the timetable of February 2002 for the review would be developed at the meeting of November 2003 based on submissions on hand and any new submissions. In this regard, Parties were invited to submit new inputs by 31 October 2003.

12. The Committee endorsed the report of the Chairman on the progress made on the revision of the text of the Agreement undertaken pursuant to Article XXIV:7 of the Agreement during the meeting of 18–21 August 2003.

13. Following suggestions respectively by the representatives of the United States and of Canada and a subsequent brief discussion, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a side-by-side text showing the text of the existing agreement and the corresponding (clean) text from the just issued 21 August 2003 interim draft text. This document would be circulated both electronically and in hard copy as a Note by the Chairman.

14. The representative of Switzerland said that, given that the next informal meeting was sometime away, it might be helpful for Parties to submit their comments on the revised (21 August 2003) draft text in advance, as they had done in the past - for instance, by an agreed deadline - so as to permit advance circulation and prior internal consultations by Parties before the next meeting.

B. MODIFICATIONS TO THE APPENDICES TO THE AGREEMENT

(i) *Modifications that had become effective*

15. The Chairman noted that the details of all proposed modifications to the Appendices to the Agreement were contained in Annex 2 of the Annotated Agenda circulated on 25 July 2003 (Job No. 5700). He said that since the previous meeting of the Committee, two proposed modifications had become effective:

- (a) proposed modification by Hong Kong, China to Annex 1 of Appendix I in document GPA/W/256, dated 5 March 2003, which became effective on 4 April 2003 (WT/Let/444); and
- (b) proposed modifications by Japan to Annex 3 of Appendix I in documents GPA/W/252, GPA/W/253 and GPA/W/254, all dated 25 February 2003, which became effective on 9 May 2003 (WT/Let/446).

(ii) *Outstanding Modifications*

16. With respect to outstanding proposed modifications to Parties' Appendices, the Chairman said that since the meeting of February 2003, there had been further developments in respect of the proposed modification by Korea to Annex 3 of Appendix I. However, no new communications had been made as regards other outstanding modifications. He opened the discussions on this item of the

agenda with the said proposed modification by Korea, and invited Parties to comment on any other outstanding modifications.

- *Modifications by Korea to Annex 3 of Appendix I*

17. With regard to the proposed modification by Korea to Annex 3 of its Appendix I regarding Housing & Commercial Bank, Korea Tobacco & Ginseng Corporation and Daehan Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. (GPA/W/250, dated 17 February 2003), the Chairman said that the United States had posed questions relating to the proposed withdrawal of Korea Tobacco & Ginseng Corporation and Daehan Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. (GPA/W/264 dated 30 April 2003). Korea's responses to those questions had been circulated in GPA/W/270.

18. The representative of the United States said that her delegation was reviewing those responses and anticipated completing its review as soon as possible, and to sending any follow-up questions that it might have. The representative of the European Community said that his delegation was also reviewing those responses, and anticipated putting complementary questions to Korea in September 2003.

19. The Chairman said that the Committee would revert to this item at its next meeting.

- *Modifications by Korea relating to Korea Telecom*

20. The representative of Korea said that since the last meeting, Korea had received questions from Canada, the United States and the European Community with respect to Korea's notification to withdraw Korea Telecom from Annex 3 of its Appendix I. She noted that the Annotated Agenda did not reflect the fact that her delegation had provided full responses to the questions put by the United States and the European Community – in documents GPA/W/266 and GPA/W/267, respectively. Her delegation had been satisfied with the bilateral consultations that it had had with Parties during that week, and was looking forward to the final decisions of the United States, Canada and the European Community in respect of the proposed modification.

21. The representative of Canada said that her delegation was continuing to examine, as expeditiously as possible, the helpful responses by Korea to Canada, the United States and the European Community with respect to Korea Telecom.

- *Modification by the United States to reflect changes in the administrative structure of its Federal Government*

22. The representative of the United States said that her delegation had made proposed modifications two years earlier (GPA/W/153), and was still awaiting the completion of their review by some Parties. She inquired of such Parties whether they had any indications as to when they anticipated completing their review.

23. The representative of Japan said that his delegation was continuing its review of the responses provided by the United States, and anticipated being in a position to withdraw its objections to some of the entities, about which it saw no problems, by the time of the next meeting of the Committee.

24. The representative of the European Community said that his delegation was also continuing its review, and if found necessary, it would put further complementary questions to the United States.

25. The representative of Canada said that her delegation was continuing to examine, as expeditiously as possible, the responses of the United States to her delegation's questions, and would consider the suggestion by Japan in this context.

26. The representative of the United States thanked Japan for its forward-looking response. She noted that her delegation's notification covered a number of entities, and it would be helpful if other Parties could also withdraw their objections at least to those entities with which they had no further concerns. In this process, Parties needed to make sure that – as with all modifications – they tried to focus on those that were of real concern and not hold up overall notifications if there were some entities with which they had no concerns.

- *Modifications by Japan relating to railway companies*

27. The representative of Japan noted that since 2001 his delegation had provided extensive information on its proposed modifications relating to railway companies (GPA/W/144, 145 and 146), and had conducted a series of bilateral consultations with the United States and the European Community, with a view to exploring a mutually satisfactory solution in an expeditious manner. To expedite the process, Japan had requested those Parties to present their positions as to whether they would maintain their objections and to specify their reasons, with a focus on any remaining concerns that they might have in the light of Article XXIV:6(b) of the GPA. Responding to that request, the United States had notified its position to Japan after re-examining all the information provided by his delegation. Japan was carefully reviewing that response. The European Community had submitted a third set of questions in February 2003 in document GPA/W/245. Japan's responses to those questions had been circulated in April 2003 in document GPA/W/263. In June 2003, Japan had requested the European Community again to re-examine all the relevant information submitted by Japan and to present its clear position on this matter. The European Community had notified Japan of its intention to submit another set of follow-up questions; however, the delegation of Japan had not yet received these.

28. Japan was convinced that it had already provided detailed explanations which proved that the proposed modifications were consistent with Article XXIV:6 (b) of the Agreement, and believed that the European Community had had enough time to conduct a careful review of the information provided. Japan requested the European Community to submit its final set of questions, if any, and to withdraw its objections in an expeditious manner after Japan responded to those questions. Japan also called upon the European Community to specify in writing the reasons why it wished to maintain its objections if the European Community was not in a position to withdraw its objections. Further cooperation with a view to achieving a speedy solution would be highly appreciated.

29. In response, the representative of the European Community noted that, as provisionally indicated to Japan, his delegation was preparing questions, which it would shortly submit to Japan. Those questions would be self-explanatory and would contain the reason why the European Community was continuing to maintain its objection.

30. With respect to these outstanding proposed modifications, the Chairman welcomed the positive intentions expressed by Parties to speed up their examinations of questions and answers, respectively, and their intention to submit further contributions on this issue before the next formal meeting of the Committee.

C. *ACCESSIONS*

(i) *Streamlining the Accession Process*

31. The Chairman recalled that, at the meeting of February 2003, Parties had agreed to take up the issue of streamlining the accession process within the wider context of the revision of the Agreement, particularly with regard to the provisions of the Agreement dealing with accessions and developing countries. Parties had earlier heard a report on this under the agenda item "Negotiations under Article XXIV:7". The Chairman added that Parties had had very interesting discussions on accessions and developing countries, including the issues of asymmetric approaches and transitional

time-frames. One of the questions that Parties had been dealing with was which items might be taken up in the context of the Agreement itself, and which issues might be dealt with in a specific accession decision of the Committee. This discussion showed the interrelation between this particular agenda item and the negotiations on the revision of the GPA.

32. The representative of Switzerland emphasized that a speedy resolution of the new Article V in the revised Agreement could prove to be extremely useful by providing guidelines for both current and future accessions. His delegation would therefore commend the drafting Group and the Committee to give a high priority to this issue as the negotiations of the revised Agreement were now extending into spring 2004. His delegation considered that there were quite a large number of acceding Members that depended on the key policy decisions that would have to be taken. Without making further progress in the revision on that particular area, it would be difficult to speed up the accession process for the benefit of acceding Members. This was one of the most important issues of the revision on which other issues depended.

33. The representative of the European Community supported the statement made by Switzerland. In reference to the communication his delegation had submitted on the current Article V on the accession and the regime to be foreseen for developing countries (Job No. 6054), he reiterated the importance his delegation attached to that Article, and hoped that that document could serve as a basis for the current negotiations.

34. The representative of the United States also supported the statement by Switzerland on the need to move forward on that Article as quickly as possible. With regard to streamlining the accession process, she suggested that that be deferred until Parties had completed the work on the Article, as that might provide important information. The United States was fully committed to finding ways in the Agreement that would assist developing countries in their accession to the Agreement. The United States appreciated the work that Switzerland and the European Community had done and the ideas that they had brought forward on this issue.

35. The Chairman echoed the statements made by the delegations of Switzerland, the European Community and the United States, with particular regard to the special importance of this issue to Members discussing accession to the Agreement.

(ii) *Applications*

36. The Chairman said that the details of the current status of all accessions could be found in the Annotated Agenda (Job No. 5700). There were two accessions on which there had been developments to report on since the February 2003 meeting: respectively those of Jordan and Chinese Taipei.

- *Jordan*

37. With respect to the accession process of Jordan, the Chairman noted that Jordan had submitted its entity offer on 6 February 2003 (GPA/SPEC/29). In a communication circulated on 30 April 2003, the United States had submitted questions and a request for information to Jordan in relation to that offer (GPA/SPEC/30). Jordan had submitted its responses to the questions and request for information from the United States in document GPA/SPEC/31.

38. The representative of Jordan made reference to the negotiations under Article XXIV:7 that had taken place in the informal meeting preceding the present meeting, at which his delegation had taken careful note of the suggestions and proposals made by, and views exchanged among, the Parties. In the view of his delegation, these had enhanced and enriched the original Agreement. They provided a helpful guide to countries whose legislation were under review to make such legislation compatible with the GPA, as in the case of Jordan. Jordan was moving towards the final stages of

modernising its legislation, and the deliberations at the informal meeting had been of great help and would be utilized whenever needed to ensure compliance of the provisions of the legislation with the Agreement.

39. Jordan had, as a developing country, sought accession to the GPA and had earlier submitted its initial offer. The negotiations with the Committee had been very encouraging as they indicated to his delegation that developed countries were taking into consideration the developmental aspects of government procurement. Any understanding supporting Jordan's offer would send a very positive signal to other developing countries to follow similar steps. He thanked all Parties that had shown interest in Jordan's offer and had asked for clarifications. He noted that his delegation had received questions on its initial offer from the United States, and had submitted replies in due time. Referring to the discussions earlier that week in the informal meeting, he thanked Parties that had recommended special and differential treatment for developing countries other than the flexibilities provided for in the current Agreement.

40. The representative of the United States thanked Jordan for its prompt responses, and said that the United States looked forward to engaging in further discussions on Jordan's offer. She encouraged all other Parties to also give close and quick consideration to Jordan's offer and its responses, and to do everything they could to move this accession process forward expeditiously.

41. The representative of the European Community said that his delegation would shortly be submitting questions to Jordan¹ and looked forward to having further discussion with Jordan and to receiving their answers thereafter. He emphasized the importance of Jordan's accession to the Agreement, and hoped that it was a step that would lead towards further accessions by other developing countries.

42. The representative of Canada thanked Jordan for its efforts and for responding promptly to the questions put to it by the United States. She said that her delegation had held discussions with, and expected to provide further feedback to, Jordan. Her delegation had found Jordan's responses to the questions put by the United States to be helpful. Her delegation would be examining those responses, and it would do its best not to duplicate the questions and answers that had already been provided.

43. The Chairman noted that, in accordance with the GPA accession timeline, a period of four months of further bilateral and plurilateral consultations was foreseen with regard to Jordan's accession. For the time being, he would not set a specific deadline for submission by Jordan of a revised offer, and invited all Parties to engage expeditiously in the consultations with Jordan.

44. The representative of the United States suggested that the Committee might consider holding a plurilateral meeting on Jordan's accession at the time of the next informal meeting of the Committee in November 2003 (see Item E, Other Business). After some discussion, the Committee accepted this suggestion. Since, however, the proposed date of the next informal meeting conflicted with the start of Ramadan, as advised by the representative of Jordan, the Chairman proposed that the Committee schedule an alternative date for the plurilateral meeting on Jordan's accession process in conjunction with the subsequent cluster of informal meetings that the Committee would decide upon.

45. The Committee agreed to proceed as the Chairman had proposed.

¹ Subsequently submitted in document GPA/SPEC/32 circulated on 27 August 2003.

- *Chinese Taipei*

46. With regard to the accession process of Chinese Taipei, the Chairman recalled that at the February 2003 meeting, the delegations of Singapore and Israel had reported that they had concluded their respective market access negotiations with Chinese Taipei; in consequence, the process of bilateral market access negotiations between Chinese Taipei and GPA Parties that had lasted for seven years had come to an end. While these negotiations had not always been easy, this positive conclusion had been made possible thanks to a strong commitment on the part of both Chinese Taipei and GPA Parties.

47. There remained, however, one outstanding issue regarding Chinese Taipei's accession, namely the issue of nomenclature used by Chinese Taipei in its Appendix I. The Chairman said that he had held intensive consultations with all delegations involved with a view to resolving this issue, both before the meeting of February 2003 and the present one. Nevertheless, he had to report that, despite his very best efforts, these consultations had not yielded a positive result. Therefore, it would not be possible to conclude the accession process of Chinese Taipei at the present meeting.

48. This situation was frustrating for all involved, not least for Chinese Taipei, given that almost eight months had elapsed since the substantive market access negotiations had been concluded. The situation was also disappointing for companies both in Chinese Taipei and in GPA Parties, which were still waiting for the mutual opening of procurement markets.

49. On a personal note, the Chairman paid tribute to the delegation of Chinese Taipei for its very active and constructive contribution to the review of the Agreement, despite the lack of progress in concluding their accession process. This, amongst other things, clearly demonstrated Chinese Taipei's strong commitment to the GPA.

50. He noted that he would no longer be able to contribute to Chinese Taipei's accession process, since he would be leaving Geneva at the end of August 2003. He had, however, discussed the matter with his designated successor (see Item G), and was pleased to indicate that his designated successor had offered his good offices to help resolve this issue. He appealed to all Parties involved to do their utmost so that the final hurdle in Chinese Taipei's accession process might be overcome.

51. The representative of Chinese Taipei thanked the Chairman for his outstanding leadership as Chair of the Committee over the previous year. He expressed his delegation's profound gratitude for the Chairman's unreserved support and great efforts in trying to complete Chinese Taipei's accession process during the period of his chairmanship. He drew attention to the preamble to the GPA, which recognised that an international framework of rights and obligations regarding government procurement would contribute to greater liberalisation and the extension of world trade. Based on his delegation's commitment to be a positive Member of the WTO, even in the knowledge that accession to the Agreement was likely to adversely affect Chinese Taipei's domestic suppliers to a certain extent, Chinese Taipei was determined to accede to the Agreement on Government Procurement in the more general framework of acceding to the WTO. Thanks to the support of the Parties involved, Chinese Taipei had successfully completed bilateral consultations on all the substantive issues and had sought to get its accession adopted in December 2002. In spite of so much good work, however, it was a non-economic issue that had prevented the conclusion of its accession at that time.

52. As further evidence of Chinese Taipei's continued determination to accede to the GPA, its responsible Minister had come to Geneva earlier that week and had been consulting very closely with the Chairman. However, despite the unreserved efforts and utmost flexibility from his delegation's side, regretfully, the non-economic issue had continued to be a stumbling-block. While expressing his delegation's great disappointment at the current stage of its GPA accession, he urged all GPA signatories to redouble their efforts so as to overcome that last outstanding hurdle as soon as possible. He took the opportunity to offer his delegation's best wishes to the Chairman in his future endeavours.

53. The representative of Japan said that his delegation looked forward to the accession of Chinese Taipei at the earliest possible date, and to that end, it would continue to work with the incoming Chairman and support his role.

54. The representative of the United States joined Japan in its statement. Her delegation had worked for many years to assist the accession of Chinese Taipei to the GPA, and had a strong interest in the commercial opportunities that this accession would bring to all Parties. The United States would welcome Chinese Taipei's accession as soon as it could be worked out. She encouraged the Chairman to continue his efforts to bring this issue to a resolution. She thanked the representative of Chinese Taipei, who had been very active in the discussions on the revision of the Agreement, and said this showed the clear commitment of Chinese Taipei to accede to the Agreement.

55. The representative of Canada joined Japan and the United States in thanking Chinese Taipei for its efforts to pursue accession and for its contribution to the review of the Agreement. Canada looked forward to the accession of Chinese Taipei at the earliest possible date, and encouraged the Chairman to continue working on finding a resolution.

56. The representative of Korea echoed the previous speakers who had supported the early resolution of the remaining issues and conclusion of the accession of Chinese Taipei as soon as possible.

57. The representative of China expressed his delegation's appreciation for the Chairman's excellent work during his chairmanship, and thanked him for his efforts in the relevant consultations to bridge differences. He noted that the Chairman's mediating efforts had helped to improve understanding among all Members concerned. The Chairman's skilfulness had enabled the exercise to be conducted in a positive way. He expressed his delegation's hope that this would continue in future consultations.

58. The Chairman stated that he had taken note of the commitments of all delegations to resolve this issue as soon as possible, and would convey to his successor the Parties' wish as regards his successor's involvement in the resolution of this issue. He proposed that the Committee revert to this issue at its next meeting, but also that the Committee could convene an additional formal meeting to deal with the issue if it had been resolved before the next scheduled formal meeting.

59. The Committee so agreed.

- *Other Accessions*

60. The Chairman noted that there were no comments by Parties with regard to the other ongoing accession processes, and said that the Committee would revert to this item at its next formal meeting.

D. REVIEW OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION

61. The Chairman noted that at the meetings October 2002 and February 2003, the delegation of the Netherlands with respect to Aruba had been invited to submit its notification of the implementing legislation in accordance with the requirements in document GPA/1/Add.1. The representative of the Netherlands with respect to Aruba noted that there had been no new developments on that issue.

62. The Chairman said that Hong Kong, China had sent a notification concerning its national implementing legislation (GPA/27/Add.1 circulated on 20 August 2003). The representative of Hong Kong, China informed the Committee that the communication her delegation had sent concerned an updated version of Hong Kong, China's basic procurement regulations, namely the Stores and Procurement Regulations.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

(i) *Date of Next Meeting*

63. The Chairman said that there were two meeting dates that the Committee needed to deal with: (i) the date of the informal meeting, which would also be an opportunity to discuss the plurilateral meeting with respect to the accession of Jordan (see Item C); and (ii) the date of the next formal meeting.

64. Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to hold its next informal meeting during week commencing 24 November 2003, and further that the incoming Chairman (see Item F below) would consult with Parties to determine appropriate days in that week to hold that meeting. Some Parties pointed out that the duration of the meeting can be shortened to three days. The representative of Japan expressed that his delegation would prefer the latter half of that week to hold that meeting.

65. As regards the date for the following formal meeting, the Chairman suggested that it might be practical that this coincided with the completion of the revision of the text of the Agreement, for which the Committee had agreed a deadline of spring 2004. He suggested that his successor consult with Parties to determine an appropriate date.

66. The Committee agreed to proceed as the Chairman had proposed.

F. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2003 AND FOR 2004

67. The Chairman recalled that in a fax dated 20 January 2003 he had informed Parties that he would be leaving Geneva at the end of August 2003 and that, accordingly, the Committee would need to elect a Chairperson for the remainder of 2003 and for 2004. In consequence, he had undertaken consultations with delegations and on the basis of those consultations, he understood that there was general support for the election of Mr. Niklas Bersgröm from the delegation of Sweden as Chairman.

68. The Committee duly elected Mr. Niklas Bergström (Sweden) as Chairman for the remainder of 2003 and for 2004.

69. The outgoing Chairman thanked the Committee for the very good cooperation and the pleasant atmosphere in which he had been able to do his work as Chairman. He also thanked the Secretariat for its support. He wished success to his successor.

70. The incoming Chairman thanked the Committee for the confidence it had placed in him. He said that he looked forward to working with the Committee, and was confident that there would be a good working atmosphere. He noted that he would also depend on the Secretariat in carrying out his work on the Committee. He thanked his predecessor for his skill and efficiency in chairing the Committee, and wished him best of luck in his future career.

71. The representatives of Canada; China; Chinese Taipei; the European Community; Hong Kong, China; Israel; Japan; Jordan; Korea; Singapore; Switzerland; and the United States thanked the outgoing Chairman for his work and conveyed their best wishes to him for the future. They welcomed the incoming Chairman and assured him of their support for his work.
