

Committee on Agriculture

**DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF
THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Note by the Secretariat

At its meeting on 21 November 1995, the Committee on Agriculture requested the Secretariat to prepare draft rules of procedure for its meetings, based on the Rules of Procedure adopted by the General Council (WT/L/28). The following draft Rules of Procedure are proposed for adoption by the Committee on Agriculture. They will subsequently be forwarded for approval to the Council for Trade in Goods in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article IV of the WTO Agreement.

The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the General Council (WT/L/28) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for meetings of the Committee on Agriculture except as otherwise provided in the Working Procedures as established (G/AG/1) or as subsequently amended by the Committee on Agriculture and except as provided below:

- (i) Rule 5 of Chapter II (Agenda) is not applicable.
- (ii) Rule 6 of Chapter II (Agenda) shall be modified to read as follows:

The first item of business at each meeting shall be the consideration and approval of the agenda. Representatives or the Chairperson may suggest amendments to the proposed agenda, or additions to the agenda under "Other Business". Representatives shall provide the Chairperson or the Secretariat, and the other Members directly concerned, whenever possible, advance notice of items intended to be raised under "Other Business".

- (iii) Rules 12, 13 and 14 of Chapter V (Officers) shall be modified to read as follows:

Rule 12

The Committee on Agriculture shall elect a Chairperson¹ from among the representatives of Members. The election shall take place at the first meeting of the

¹The Committee on Agriculture shall apply the relevant guidelines contained in the "Guidelines for Appointment of Officers to WTO Bodies" (WT/L/31 dated 7 February 1995).

year and shall take effect at the end of the meeting. The Chairperson shall hold office until the end of the first meeting of the following year.

Rule 13

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

Rule 14

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

- (iv) Rule 16 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) is not applicable.
- (v) Rule 24 of Chapter VI (Conduct of Business) shall be modified to read as follows:

In order to expedite the conduct of business, the Chairperson may invite representatives that wish to express their support for a given proposal to show their hands; thus, only representatives with dissenting views or wishing to make explicit points or proposals would actually be invited to make a statement. This procedure shall only be applied in order to avoid undue repetition of points already made, and will not preclude any representative who so wishes from taking the floor.

- (vi) Rule 33 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) shall be replaced by the following:

The Committee on Agriculture shall reach its decisions by consensus. Where a decision cannot be arrived at by consensus, the matter at issue shall be referred to the Council for Trade in Goods if any delegation so requests.

- (vii) Rule 34 of Chapter VII (Decision-Making) is not applicable.
- (viii) Rule 36 of Chapter IX (Records) shall be replaced by the following:

Records of the Committee on Agriculture's proceedings shall take the form of a summary to be prepared by the Secretariat, on the basis that any delegation may, at their request, verify those portions of the draft report containing their statements prior to the issuance of the Secretariat summary report in accordance with the customary GATT practice. Delegations that wish to avail themselves of this verification procedure, should so indicate to the Secretariat within 10 days of the close of the meeting concerned.