

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1999 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Proposal regarding the Agreement on Safeguards

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, dated 7 September 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Colombia.

Background

The application of the Safeguards Agreement has brought to light the inadequacy of Article 9, which provides for the non-application of safeguard measures to products originating in developing countries. This inadequacy is reflected in two aspects: the *de minimis* level is negligible as it only covers imports from developing countries which individually represent less than 3 per cent and total imports from developing countries that are less than 9 per cent.

Proposal

It is proposed that Article 9.1 be amended so that safeguard measures are not applied to imports from developing countries which individually account for less than 7 per cent of total imports.
