

Pursuant to the objectives of the GATS, as stipulated in the Preamble and Article IV, and as required by Article XIX, negotiations based on these guidelines shall aim to achieve progressively higher levels of liberalisation of trade in services through the reduction or elimination of the adverse effects on trade of measures as a means of providing effective market access. The negotiations shall take place with due respect for national policy objectives and the level of development of individual Members. In this process, the existing structure and principles of the GATS shall be preserved. To this end:

- (a) The negotiations shall be conducted in full accordance with Article IV (Increasing Participation of Developing Countries) and Article XIX (Negotiation of Specific Commitments) and the Annex on Article II (MFN) Exemptions.
- (b) Liberalisation may be achieved through bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral approaches, based on the request-offer approach and supplemented as necessary by other appropriate negotiating modalities, applied on a horizontal or sectoral basis. Participants shall submit initial requests or proposals on specific commitments by 1 November 2000 and initial offers by 1 November 2001.
- (c) The negotiations, from which no service sector or mode of supply shall be excluded *a priori*, shall aim to promote the interests of all participants and to secure an overall balance of rights and obligations through the liberalisation of services across a broad range of sectors. Special attention shall be given to sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries.
- (d) In order to improve market access and make the operation of the Agreement more effective, work currently in progress under the GATS shall be expedited, alongside negotiations on specific commitments. The Working Party on Domestic Regulation shall aim to conclude its work on the development of new disciplines no later than the fourth Ministerial Conference. The Working Party on GATS Rules shall aim to conclude its work by the same date. However, negotiations under Article X (Emergency Safeguard Measures) shall be concluded by 15 December 2000, as agreed by the Services Council on 24 June 1999. Participants shall aim to conclude the work undertaken by the Committee on Specific Commitments on the nomenclature of services and the scheduling of commitments no later than the date of the fourth Ministerial Conference.
- (e) Existing provisions of the GATS may be subject to technical review, as agreed by Members, in order to improve the clarity and legal consistency of the text.
- (f) In the conduct of negotiations, account shall be taken of any autonomous liberalization undertaken by other Members since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and credit shall be given for it according to modalities to be developed during the negotiations.
- (g) Negotiations shall take account of the results of the reviews to be conducted by the Council for Trade in Services of Article II Exemptions and the Annex on Air Transport Services.