

meant to compensate the disadvantageous situation faced by Bolivia and Paraguay due to their landlocked location.

Provided that criteria referred to gradual timing are adopted within the regional tariff preference referred to in Article 5 of the present Treaty, attempts shall be made to preserve the margins granted in favour of landlocked countries by means of cumulative tariff cuts.

At the same time, attempts shall be made to establish compensation formulae, both as regards the regional tariff preference when deepened, and regional and partial scope agreements.

Article 23

Member countries shall endeavour to grant landlocked countries facilities to establish free zones, warehouses or ports and other administrative international transit facilities in their territories.

CHAPTER IV

Convergence and cooperation with other Latin American countries and areas of economic integration

Article 24

Member countries may establish multilateral association or relationship systems encouraging convergence with other countries and areas of economic integration of Latin America, including the possibility of agreeing with these countries or areas the establishment of a Latin American tariff preference.

Member countries shall in due course regulate the characteristics of these systems.

Article 25

Likewise, member countries may draw up partial scope agreements with other Latin American countries and areas of economic integration, in accordance with the various modalities foreseen in the third section of Chapter II of the present Treaty, and under the terms of the respective regulative provisions.

Notwithstanding the above, these agreements shall be subject to the following rules:

(a) Concessions granted by participating member countries shall not be extensive to the others, excepting the relatively less developed countries;

(b) When a member country includes products already negotiated in partial agreements with other member countries, concessions granted may be higher than those agreed with the former; in this case, consultation with the affected member countries shall be carried out in order to find mutually satisfactory solutions, unless the respective partial agreements include clauses concerning automatic extension or waiver of preferences contained in the partial agreements referred to in the present Article; and

(c) They shall be multilaterally assessed by the member countries within the Committee in order to acknowledge the scope of the agreements drawn up and facilitate participation of other member countries in same.

CHAPTER V

Cooperation with other areas of economic integration

Article 26

Member countries shall undertake the actions necessary to establish and develop solidarity and cooperation links with other integration areas outside Latin America, through the Association's participation in horizontal cooperation programmes carried out at international level, thus implementing the basic principles and commitments adopted within the context of the Declaration and Action Programme on the establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

The Committee shall adopt adequate measures to facilitate compliance with the objectives set forth.

Article 27

At the same time, member countries may draw up partial scope agreements with other developing countries or respective economic integration areas outside Latin America, following the various modalities foreseen in the third section of Chapter II of the present Treaty, and under the terms of the pertinent regulative provisions.

Notwithstanding the above, these agreements shall be subject to the following rules:

- (a) Concessions granted by member countries participating in them shall not be extended to other members, with the exception of the relatively less developed countries;
- (b) When products already negotiated with other member countries in partial scope agreements are included, concessions granted may not be higher than those agreed with the former, and in such case they shall be automatically extended to those countries; and
- (c) They shall be declared consistent with the commitments undertaken by member countries within the frame of the present Treaty, in accordance with captions (a) and (b) of the present Article.

CHAPTER VI

Institutional organization

Article 28

The political bodies of the Association are:

- (a) The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (referred to as the "Council" in this Treaty);
- (b) The Evaluation and Convergence Conference (referred to as the "Conference" in this Treaty); and
- (c) The Committee of Representatives (referred to as the "Committee" in this Treaty).

Article 29

The technical body of the Association is the General Secretariat (referred to as the "Secretariat" in this Treaty).