

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The Governments on whose behalf the present Agreement is signed, hereinafter referred to as the "Participating States", agree to establish a trade expansion programme among their respective countries on a multilateral basis, which shall be governed by the provisions of this Agreement and by the rules, regulations and decisions agreed within its framework

Article 2

The objectives of this Agreement are to promote economic development through a continuous process of trade expansion among the developing member countries of ESCAP and to further international economic co-operation through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures consistent with their respective present and future development and trade needs, and taking into account the trading interests of third countries, particularly those of other developing countries

Chapter II

PROGRAMME OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION

Article 3

Upon the entry into force of this Agreement, each Participating State shall apply such tariff and non-tariff concessions in favour of the goods originating in all other Participating States as are set out in its respective National List of Concessions. These National Lists of Concessions are attached as annex I, which is an integral part of this Agreement

Article 4

Each Participating State shall take appropriate measures, consistent with its development needs and objectives, for the gradual relaxation of quantitative and other non-tariff restrictions to trade which may affect the importation of products covered by its National List of Concessions

Article 5

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 3 of this Agreement, any Participating State may grant to another Participating State, which is considered by the United Nations to be a least developed country, special concessions which shall apply only in favour of that Participating State and shall not be extended to other Participating States. These special concessions shall be included in the National List of Concessions of the preference-giving Participating State.

Article 6

For the purposes of articles 3 and 5, goods shall be accepted as eligible for preferential treatment if they have been consigned to the territory of the importing Participating State from the territory of another Participating State and if they satisfy the conditions