

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Council for Trade in Goods
25 March 1999

Original: Spanish

NICARAGUA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE XXIX

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 19 February 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua.

I refer to your communication of 10 February 1999 requesting factual information on the extension of the waiver concerning Schedule XXIX.

The facts are as follows:

- The original waiver was granted on 26 January 1994, and was extended in December 1994, December 1995, July 1996, April 1997, October 1997, April 1998 and October 1998.
- In January 1997, the Government of Nicaragua adopted the Second Amendment to the Harmonized System of 1996, thereby modifying the Central American Tariff System, which entered into force on 1 March 1997. However, for reasons of coordination with the other countries of the region, Nicaragua has not officially submitted the adoption of the Harmonized System to the WTO.
- The relevant documentation was submitted on 28 June 1995. On the expiry of the time-limit of three months, two countries had reserved their right to conduct negotiations.
- We submitted all the documentation requested by the two countries in September 1998, thus demonstrating our wish to complete the process as soon as possible.
- One country has withdrawn its reservation; however, we have received no reply from the other country concerned, and therefore find ourselves obliged to request a further extension of the original waiver.