

JOINT DECLARATION ON CUSTOMS UNIONS

1. The Union recalls the obligation of those countries that have established a customs union with the Union to align their trade regime to that of the Union, and for certain of them to conclude preferential agreements with countries having preferential agreements with the Union.

2. In this context and with a view to concluding a comprehensive bilateral agreement establishing a free trade area in accordance with Article XXIV of GATT 1994, New Zealand shall endeavour to start negotiations with countries that:
 - (a) have established a customs union with the Union; and

 - (b) whose goods do not benefit from the tariff concessions under this Agreement.

3. New Zealand shall endeavour to start negotiations as soon as possible with a view to having a comprehensive bilateral agreement enter into force as quickly as possible after the entry into force of this Agreement.

