

3. The Council shall establish a Sugar Consumption Committee composed of both exporting and importing Members.

4. The Committee shall study such matters as:

- (a) the effects on sugar consumption of the use of any form of substitutes for sugar, including other sweeteners;
- (b) the relative tax treatment of sugar and other sweeteners;
- (c) the effects of (i) taxation and restrictive measures, (ii) economic conditions and in particular balance of payments difficulties and (iii) climatic and other conditions, on the consumption of sugar in different countries;
- (d) means of promoting consumption, particularly in countries where consumption per caput is low;
- (e) co-operation with agencies concerned with the expansion of consumption of sugar and other related foodstuffs;
- (f) research into new uses of sugar, its by-products and the plants from which it is derived,

and shall submit to the Council such recommendations as it deems desirable for appropriate action by Members or by the Council.

CHAPTER VIII - DISPUTES AND COMPLAINTS

Article 29

Disputes

1. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Agreement which is not settled among the Members involved shall, at the request of any Member party to the dispute, be referred to the Council for decision.

2. In any case where a dispute has been referred to the Council under paragraph 1 of this Article, a majority of Members holding not less than one third of the total votes may require the Council, after discussion to seek the opinion of an advisory panel constituted under paragraph 3 of this Article on the issue in dispute before giving its decision.

3. (a) Unless the Council unanimously agrees otherwise, the panel shall consist of five persons as follows:
- (i) two persons, one having wide experience in matters of the kind in dispute and the other having legal standing and experience, nominated by the exporting Members;
 - (ii) two such persons nominated by the importing Members; and
 - (iii) a Chairman selected unanimously by the four persons nominated under (i) and (ii) or, if they fail to agree, by the Chairman of the Council.
- (b) Nationals of Members and of non-Members shall be eligible to serve on the advisory panel.
- (c) Persons appointed to the advisory panel shall act in their personal capacities and without instructions from any Government.
- (d) The expenses of the advisory panel shall be paid by the Organization.

4. The opinion of the advisory panel and the reasons therefor shall be submitted to the Council, and the Council, after considering all the relevant information, shall decide the dispute by special vote.

Article 30

Action by the Council on complaints and on non-fulfilment of obligations by Members

1. Any complaint that any Member has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Agreement shall, at the request of the Member making the complaint, be referred to the Council which, subject to prior consultation with the Members concerned, shall make a decision on the matter.

2. Any finding by the Council that a Member is in breach of its obligations under the Agreement shall be made by a distributed simple majority vote and shall specify the nature of the breach.

3. Whenever the Council, whether as the result of a complaint or otherwise, finds that a Member has committed a breach of the Agreement it may, without prejudice to such other measures as are specifically provided for in other Articles of the Agreement, by special vote:

- (a) suspend that Member's voting rights in the Council and in the Executive Committee; and, if it deems it necessary,
- (b) suspend further rights of such Member, including that of being eligible for, or of holding office in the Council or in any of its Committees until it has fulfilled its obligations; or, if such breach significantly impairs the operation of the Agreement,
- (c) take action under Article 40.

CHAPTER IX -

PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT

Article 31

Preparations for a new agreement

1. The Council shall initiate an early study of the bases and framework of a new international sugar agreement and shall make a report to the Members not later than 31 December 1974. The report shall contain such recommendations as the Council deems appropriate.

2. On the basis of the report referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, or of any subsequent report based on a similar study by the Council, the Council shall, as soon as it considers appropriate, request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene a negotiating conference.

CHAPTER X - FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 32

Signature

The Agreement shall be open for signature at United Nations Headquarters until and including 24 December 1973 by any Government invited to the United Nations Sugar Conference, 1973.

Article 33

Ratification

The Agreement shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory Governments in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. Except as provided in Article 34, instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations not later than 31 December 1973.

Article 34

Notification by Governments

1. If a signatory Government is unable to comply with the requirements of Article 33 within the time-limit specified in that Article, it may notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations, not later than 31 December 1973, that it is undertaking to seek ratification, acceptance or approval in accordance with the constitutional procedures required, as rapidly as possible and in any case not later than 15 October 1974. Any Government for which conditions of accession have been established by the Council in agreement with that Government may also notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations that it is undertaking to satisfy the constitutional procedures required to accede to the Agreement as rapidly as possible and at least within a six-month period of such conditions being established.