

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Forty-Second Session

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This Forty-Second Session of CONTRACTING PARTIES is of particular significance. It must not only review the activities of GATT and the report of the Council covering the past twelve months, but must also take stock of what has been done by our organization following the Punta del Este meeting to establish structures and plans for the negotiations so that the Uruguay Round can begin without delay.

Our session is therefore called upon to make a major contribution to the efforts being made to overcome the critical situation in which world trade finds itself, and precisely in order to attain that objective, the CONTRACTING PARTIES must concentrate their efforts to establish new bases for international trade relations which can offer fair conditions for participation of all countries in world trade and for free international trade, without obstacles or discrimination of any kind.

We fully concur, Mr Chairman, with the brief appraisal in your opening statement of the situation of the world economy and international trade in 1985 and this year. That situation, which is hardly encouraging, leads us to state that urgent measures are needed to check protectionist pressures, to continue the process of liberalizing world trade, and to find solutions to the problems facing the developing countries, first of all in order effectively to assist their efforts toward increasing participation in international trade.

The Romanian delegation would also like to express its great satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the Ministerial meeting held at Punta del Este, Uruguay. While being an example "of authentic co-operation within the international community", as you mentioned in your statement yesterday, Mr. Chairman, the Punta del Este meeting set up the general policy framework for developing new actions designed to liberalize international trade and to consolidate the multilateral trading system based on the principles and rules of the General Agreement.

In this context, we should like to reaffirm the view that it is necessary to create an appropriate climate for the negotiations. If these are to be credible and in order to strengthen confidence among the participants, it is essential that the contracting parties begin forthwith to implement the standstill and rollback commitments agreed by consensus in the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este. The mechanism for overseeing implementation of those commitments must be very clearly defined and must become operational as soon as possible. We share and support the views presented by the Swiss delegation in this regard. We also believe that

abandonment of discriminatory measures and application of most-favoured-nation treatment in a stable manner and without political conditions would offer a favourable premise for the success of the Uruguay Round.

In the negotiating process and in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este, special attention will have to be given to preferential and more favourable treatment for all developing countries. Apart from preferential treatment in the tariff area - which will have to be constantly improved - these countries must have the benefit of a preferential régime in other areas too, for example non-tariff measures and the new, non-traditional areas which have been included in the new round of negotiations - the Uruguay Round. It is likewise necessary to implement the GATT provisions, reaffirmed by the Declaration of Punta del Este, under which developing countries are not expected to make contributions inconsistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs.

Before concluding, my delegation would wish to express appreciation for GATT activities in areas other than those relating to launching of the Uruguay Round. I should like to mention, inter alia, the activities of the committees administering the Tokyo Round agreements, the Committee on Trade and Development, the bodies established after the 1982 Ministerial meeting, activities to assist developing countries carried out by the Technical Co-operation Division and the Training Divisions, and the activities of the International Trade Centre.

In its capacity as a contracting party, my country takes this opportunity to reaffirm its confidence in the multilateral trading system based on the General Agreement, its resolve to develop unceasingly, within an equitable trading framework, trade with all contracting parties and to act, in the future too, with a view to strengthening the rôle of GATT in the liberalization of international trade.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I should like on behalf of my authorities to commend your efforts and the remarkable work you have done for the benefit of contracting parties over the past two years as Chairman of the Council and of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.