

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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FIRST IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

GUADALAJARA DECLARATION

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, 19 July 1991

* The Heads of State and of the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela, meeting in the City of Guadalajara, Mexico, on 18 and 19 July 1991, have agreed to issue the following declaration:

1. It is for us particularly rewarding that, for the first time in history, we have assembled in order to examine together the major challenges facing our countries in a changing world. We therefore propose to co-ordinate the political will of our Governments so as to advance the solutions those challenges require and transform our shared historical and cultural affinities into an instrument of unity and development based on dialogue, co-operation and solidarity.

2. We represent an extensive group of nations which share roots and the rich heritage of a culture resulting from the sum of diverse peoples, creeds and races. Five hundred years after our first encounter, we are resolved, as one of the major areas in the modern world, to project our community's strength into the third millennium.

3. We recognize that this objective of convergence is based not only on a common cultural heritage but also on the wealth of our origins and their many forms of expression. Our community is based on democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this framework we reaffirm the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention and recognize the right of each people freely to build its political system and institutions in peace, stability and justice.

4. We find, through respectful convergence of our differences and the multiplicity of our societies, the foundations for a project of Ibero-American co-operation based on dialogue, solidarity and concerted action.

5. We express our wish to make a united contribution to a common future of peace, greater prosperity and social equality. We are committed to the economic and social development of our peoples, full respect for human rights, the broadening of democratic channels, the strengthening of our institutional systems and the observance of the rules of international law.

6. We want a future of stability, peace and security for our peoples. This will be possible only through respect for international law and a general and complete disarmament that discourages the use of force and encourages the negotiated settlement of disputes. We reaffirm our support for the targets for the United Nations decade against colonialism. In opposition to the abuse of power, we invoke reason and dialogue.

* Throughout the text of the Declaration, the delegation of Mexico has indicated with an asterik (*) the paragraphs which it believes are relevant either to GATT activities or to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. These asteriks are not part of the original text.

7. We reaffirm that it is the obligation of States based on the rule of law to promote and guarantee the full enforcement of human rights. By our own efforts and on the basis of broad, non-selective and non-discriminatory international co-operation, we are resolved to form an Ibero-American common platform of human-rights to strengthen patterns of respect, freedom and harmony in the political, legal, economic and social fields.

8. We recognize the enormous contribution of the indigenous peoples to the development and plurality of our societies and reaffirm our commitment to their economic and social welfare as well as the obligation to respect their rights and cultural identity.

- * 9. We are committed to a process of profound readjustment of our economies in order to achieve recovery and growth efficiently. Our countries have made significant progress in modernization by means of State reforms and economic liberalization. These processes have entailed sacrifices which must cease so that genuine social justice may be established. Unprecedented processes aimed at gradual regional and subregional economic integration have taken place in our region with a view to enabling it to attain a more favourable position in the international system. Our initiatives will be strengthened if there is an international environment that facilitates additional recourses for development and the elimination of obstacles to trade.

We express our firm support for integration processes at the regional and subregional levels and propose to continue advancing along this path. We reiterate that these integration efforts are open to the rest of the world.

If the present situation persists, ideological bipolarity may be replaced by a division of the world into the North, rich in capital and technology, and the South, poor and with no prospects. In order to overcome this problem, it is necessary both to develop effective forms of reciprocity and solidarity and also to underpin them with a moral purpose, guided by social justice and freedom, which, through new approaches, fosters genuine co-operation among all countries.

10. We shall make all necessary efforts to free our peoples from the scourge of poverty before the 21st Century. To that end, we shall achieve general access to minimum services in the areas of health, nutrition, housing, education and social security, in accordance with the targets laid down by the United Nations International Development Strategies. We shall thereby help to strengthen democracy in our region.

- * 11. We reaffirm that external debt is one of the main obstacles to the region's growth and stability and that for many of our countries it therefore constitutes a fundamental factor in economic development, with a clear political dimension.

12. We recognize that our aspirations for economic, social, technological and cultural development call for firm encouragement of education and culture, which will strengthen our identity while at the same time providing solid foundations for securing a suitable position for our countries in an international environment of which scientific and technological innovation is a central feature.

The technology gap must be narrowed, using basic technology to satisfy the rights to health, education, food and housing. Transfer of technology must meet social criteria and not solely commercial considerations.

13. In the face of worldwide ecological deterioration, which is closely linked with the development models that have prevailed so far, primarily in the industrialized countries, we call for a renewed effort in multilateral co-operation, so as to end this deterioration and overcome poverty. It is essential that this international co-operation establishes efficient mechanisms for the transfer of additional financial resources as well as appropriate technologies on preferential, non-commercial terms for developing countries, taking into account that those who have the greatest share in creating the damage must basically bear the responsibility for the solution. These mechanisms must include innovative modalities based on the sovereign management of natural resources and the promotion of economic growth. The foundations must also be laid for a treaty-based global legal régime covering the inseparable aspects of development and the conservation of nature. Given the present inequality in the international and economic system and its consequences for much of mankind living in poverty, a new environmental order must be credited for a healthy and balanced environment.

14. We are committed to deploying the necessary efforts in order to attain the targets laid down in the World Summit for Children. We shall therefore encourage the formulation of national action programmes aimed at promoting the survival, protection and all-round development of children in the Ibero-American region.

15. The shortcomings of development are reflected in the cost which death and disease represent in our countries, particularly for the more vulnerable sectors of the population. Aware of the high-risk conditions which have led to outbreaks of epidemics such as cholera, on a scale that has led to a real emergency, we express our determination to co-operate in order to put an end to these conditions and achieve better health and living standards.

16. With respect to the scourge of the drug traffic and its consequences, we reaffirm the principle of shared responsibility and reiterate our commitment to strengthening international co-operation for its eradication, based on a comprehensive, multilateral approach with full respect for the sovereignty of States.

17. In a world in which large, dynamic and competitive regional groupings are taking shape, isolation and lack of communication are a cause of poverty, marginalization and backwardness. We require greater collective strength to lessen the vulnerability and risks of dispersion.

18. In the face of poverty, war, intolerance, hunger, disease, environmental degradation and ignorance, we propose a new culture of international co-operation as the sole path towards a just and stable world. We view this as a genuine joint operation in which the shared interests and objectives of the Ibero-American nations converge and transcend the simple act of giving and receiving.

19. We thus aspire to become a full participant in the world scenario. On the basis of what we hold in common, we have decided to take initiatives to overcome the challenges we face and unite our efforts with respect to the most pressing world issues.

20. We assume that as we draw closer together we will benefit from the diversity of ongoing experience, opening up new opportunities for dialogue and understanding with all regions of the world. Accordingly, the intensification of Ibero-American co-operation does not exclude or replace the regional and subregional schemes of integration and collective management in which we participate.

21. At the close of the twentieth century, the emergence of a new pattern of organization of international relations is emerging. Nevertheless, its fundamental features have yet to be defined; we cannot passively await change, we must act to shape it: we have real interests which must be reaffirmed and promoted.

22. Only an international society governed by law can ensure peace and security for all peoples. The United Nations Organization must play an essential rôle in this task: a revitalized and renewed United Nations in which the new international situation should help to attain the objectives for which it was set up.

The strengthening of the foundations of international co-existence and justice in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter is a shared responsibility for all States and not the exclusive prerogative of a few. It is a process that must be open and participatory, in which the interests of the international community as a whole are advanced. We are resolved to make our contribution.

23. The interdependence of the challenges facing mankind means that we must unite our efforts to overcome them. This implies strict compliance with the fundamental rules of international law, as well as its progressive development in new areas, as a result of the processes of integration and globalization.

24. We reaffirm the strength of our culture, which is enriched by our participation in the integration and globalization processes.

We, the Heads of State and of Government of Ibero-America, undertake to hold consultations in order to encourage broader co-operation and increase exchanges so as to be able to advance common policies designed to make the best possible use of the advantages stemming from membership of a single community. We have set ourselves the following objectives:

I. Application of international law

A. To guide the external conduct of our countries on the basis of international law and act jointly and in a co-ordinated manner in order to contribute to eliminating the use, or threat of use, of force.

B. To firmly promote negotiation for the solution of regional conflicts and support initiatives for arms control, reduction and trade. In this connection, to support the negotiations in Central America aimed at establishing fair, firm and lasting peace, to which end we undertake to refrain from any act or measure that might hinder the prompt solution of conflicts and urge all members of the international community to do likewise.

* C. To promote the right to development and the establishment of more just and equitable international economic relations.

Ch. To play an active part in the restructuring of multilateral forums, particularly the United Nations system, with the aim of achieving a more just and democratic international order that will guarantee peace and promote the prosperity of peoples.

D. To promote the strengthening of democracy and pluralism in international relations, with full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, as well as the sovereign equality and self-determination of peoples.

E. To foster consultations concerning the development and codification of international law on the basis of a consensual process directed towards the issues which are most pressing because of their global character. Priority attention should go to strengthening the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, rules applicable to armed conflict, promotion of disarmament with respect to conventional, nuclear and mass-destruction weapons, enhancement of the instruments for the protection of human rights, definition of a legal framework for the protection of the environment, the fight against drug-traffic, law of the sea and outer space and transfer of technology.

F. To strengthen co-operation among governments and civil entities and multilateral bodies responsible for human rights and promote full compliance with the international instruments, both universal and regional, for the promotion and protection of such rights.

G. To undertake to create or, as appropriate, strengthen in our countries national mechanisms for the promotion, protection and defence of human rights, and establish close collaboration between them.

II. Economic and social development

* H. To strengthen the multilateral system of international trade by promoting greater communication and, as appropriate, collaboration between the various integration and co-operation groupings in which the Ibero-American countries participate both in America and in Europe, with a view to securing an open world economy.

- * I. To contribute to the success of the GATT Uruguay Round, the full implementation of GATT rules and objectives, the fight against protectionism, rejection of discrimination in international trade and just reciprocity for those countries that are undertaking unilateral and regional efforts of trade liberalization.
- * J. To define realistic and pragmatic ways and means of reintroducing the issues of economic development and international co-operation in the multilateral agenda.
- K. To strengthen national and international mechanisms that can adequately contribute to definitively securing the full exercise of rights by women and their inclusion in society on a basis of complete equality.
- L. To encourage meetings of those involved in business activity in Ibero-America with a view to exchanging experience and developing stronger links among them, making use of mutual comparative advantages for trade, investment and technological development. To that end, the establishment of an Ibero-American business organization could be encouraged.
- LL. It is proposed to create an Ibero-American fund for the development of indigenous peoples, with the support of international organizations, so as to find a favourable solution to the pressing problems of the original inhabitants totally distinct from the concepts of "native reserves" or paternalistic compensation.
- M. To support, at the proposal of the President of Mexico, the candidacy of Mr. Carlos Solchaga of Spain as Chairman of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund.
- * N. To ensure that measures for the control, reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction do not hinder legitimate access to advanced technologies for peaceful use which are indispensable for the economic and social development of our peoples.
- * O. To promote solutions to environmental deterioration on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and their ecological policies, taking into account that the responsibility of countries is proportional to their contribution to that degradation. In particular we draw attention to the need to prevent by international means the use and transfer of polluting technologies. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is a unique opportunity for broadening international co-operation for development and reversing the global process of environmental degradation.
- P. To promote short-term programmes for co-operation in the struggle against drug traffic, in accordance with existing international instruments, through the exchange of information, verification of ill-gotten monetary assets and control of the production and sale of chemical components.
- Q. To request consumer countries to intensify their action to eliminate the use of drugs.

* R. To call on industrialized countries and international organizations to provide economic and financial support to enable all States affected by drug trafficking to carry out crop substitution and alternative development programmes and to strengthen their judicial and administrative systems. One of the most efficient means of compensating for the socio-economic costs arising from this struggle is the opening of markets for developing countries which carry out such programmes.

S. To attend to health problems, particularly preventive health care. We fully support the drawing up of an emergency plan for the prevention and control of cholera in Ibero-America and for medium and long-term investment aimed at improving the shortcomings in the drinking water supply and proper treatment of waste water.

T. To propose to international credit institutions the feasibility of helping countries of the region with their land reform plans.

III. Education and culture

U. To identify the educational areas in which each country has comparative advantages and which could be of benefit to the Ibero-American region, as individual countries or as a whole, and on the basis of their priorities, draw up specific programmes for bilateral or multilateral co-operation.

V. To promote a common market for knowledge, the arts and culture, by liberalizing trade in cultural, teaching and educational materials; facilitating trade in, and supply of, scientific and technological equipment; and creating incentives for communication and transmission of knowledge. Likewise, our countries should, to the best of their abilities, devote resources for the implementation of a technological development project aimed at enhancing their capacity to generate innovation so as to strengthen industrial competitiveness and social efficiency.

W. To encourage Ibero-American expert meetings in the various fields of culture. To call on each country of the region to found an Ibero-American library as a cultural link, culture being the essence of our community.

X. To intensify links among Ibero-American institutions of higher education.

Y. To expand programmes of cultural exchange and academic grants.

Z. To promote the use of the satellite communication systems existing in the region, which would help to improve links among Ibero-American countries.

* In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives we have decided to establish a dialogue at the highest level among Ibero-American countries. The Heads of State and of the Government, meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, have decided to constitute the Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and of the Government with the participation of the Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking sovereign States of America and Europe. To that end we

shall meet initially in Spain next year, in Brazil in 1993, in Colombia in 1994 and in Argentina in 1995. The holding of these meetings will enable us to make headway in a political, economic and cultural process from which our countries may jointly achieve a better and more efficient participation in a radically-changing global context. We consider it desirable to exchange information on progress towards the objectives set out in this Declaration before the next Summit.