

**GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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The year 1993 was the most crucial and memorable year for the GATT system, as we successfully concluded the most ambitious trade liberalization package of the Uruguay Round embracing trade liberalization, strengthened rules and establishment of a new organization. This is good news for the world economy as well, which is struggling to recover from the current serious recession.

The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round provides opportunities to realize the rule of law over a broad horizon of world trade including such new areas as Trade in Services, Intellectual Property Rights and Trade-Related Investment. The Market Access package agreed upon in the Uruguay Round negotiations will also have a strong impact in expanding the world economy. Having said that, we have to remind ourselves that the successful conclusion of the Round will only provide a framework for a more open and well-disciplined multilateral trading system, and it is our whole-hearted commitment and individual actions that will translate the success of the negotiations into actual reality.

In some parts of the world, there seems to be lingering persistently a certain inclination towards unilateralism, bilateralism or managed-trade, as well as potentially worrisome signs of inward-looking regionalism. If they prevail, any benefit to be expected from the achievements of the Uruguay Round will be largely nullified. It is also to be cautioned that anti-dumping measures or countervailing measures could become a frequent tool of protectionism. I would, therefore, like to urge all contracting parties to carry out trade policies with a sense of responsibility based upon the letter and the spirit of the Uruguay Round agreement.

Let me briefly touch upon the issue of Trade and Environment. Last December, we all agreed to establish a work programme for this new issue before the Marrakesh Ministerial Meeting in April. I would like to point out that contracting parties have already initiated a very useful exercise on this issue through the deliberations of this Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade over the last two years. As we further develop our work in this area, we should take into account the valuable and very thought-provoking experiences of this Group. The Committee on Trade and Development has also conducted useful debates for the work ahead of us.

Now we have 115 contracting parties after the recent accession of Paraguay, and there are also nineteen working parties for accession to the GATT under way, including those for China and Russia. It is no exaggeration to say that the GATT and the forthcoming WTO is now becoming a universal, rule-setting and negotiating body of world trade, and we should continue to dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of our aspiration to achieve freer and more open trade, as we enter the new phase of world trade and the trading system.