

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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TURKEY

Statement by Mr. Mehmet S. Onaner
Deputy Permanent Representative

On the occasion of the fiftieth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES which is being held at a time of transition from GATT to WTO, I would like to express my confidence that, as a result of the collective will of the participants in the Uruguay Round, the multilateral trading environment will improve significantly. I believe this will pave the way to a more stable economic growth by boosting international trade, although benefits will be distributed inequitably.

My country's share in the world merchandise trade has been increasing steadily. Last year, Turkey ranked the 20th largest country with respect to trade volume. In fact, even before the launching of the Uruguay Round negotiations, Turkey had embarked on a vast programme of liberalization reforms. Since then, significant improvement has been made in the direction of progressive dismantling of all quantitative restrictions on trade and a better integration of our economy with the world economy. Most of our unilateral liberalization efforts have been consolidated in the multilateral framework.

Conscious of our responsibility to ensure the negotiated commitments in the Round to turn into a working reality, the ratification process is being finalized in Turkey. We are trying our best to complete constitutional requirements in time.

I would have preferred to conclude my very brief remarks on a positive note while we are approaching to the establishment of the WTO, but recent developments did not allow it. The fact that consensus on the composition of Textile Monitoring Body is still pending is regrettable. I am afraid, if the last minute efforts to resolve the problem failed, the responsibility would belong to others.