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MADAGASCAR

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On behalf of the delegation of Madagascar, I wish to hail the birth of the World Trade Organization, an organization that brings hope for a more integrated economic system that is based on better rules of the game. To put it clearly, rules that allow members of the international community to adjust to a new dimension in order better to manage their relations with their partners and diversify their foreign markets.

However, my delegation has to express today its concern in connection with the appointment of the WTO Director-General, an appointment which now appears to be heading for a crisis. My delegation considers that this aspect of the problem is closely linked with the establishment of the WTO as of January 1995, and therefore hopes that a consensus decision can emerge in the appointment process by the end of the year. It also hopes that this will also be true of the other problems relating to the future activities of the WTO which remain unresolved today. I refer among other things to the negotiations on the WTO Headquarters Agreement.

I should therefore like to take this opportunity to thank once again the Swiss Government which, as part of the package of its offer to host the WTO in Geneva, has planned special measures for the least-developed countries. My delegation can only welcome the initiative to establish the Universal House, as well as the temporary measures to help the least-developed countries until the building of the House has been completed, in an estimated three years. My country believes that this initiative would help the least-developed countries to become better integrated into the multilateral trading system and take full advantage of it, which is an essential condition for them to escape marginalization in an increasingly interdependent world.

My delegation also welcomes the establishment of the special unit set up for the time being in the GATT 1947 to deal with the specific problems of least-developed countries. Finally, with regard to the activities of GATT 1947, the issue of the Fourth Lomé Convention has been a source of concern for my delegation as for all ACP countries. I am not going to enter into the details of the issue here. However, I wish to stress that the aspect of fair trade, which is also recognized in the spirit of the multilateral trading system, should not be overlooked in certain cases where the relative seriousness of the situation in member countries should be taken into consideration by the international community.

Only yesterday, Mr. Chairman, in your introduction to the overview of the economy and world trade in recent decades, you stressed the critical situation today of the African Continent as a whole, and particularly the least-developed countries. In Marrakesh our eminent host, His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco, mentioned in his closing speech the specific situation of Africa, which calls for

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particular attention from the international community. Africa represents a large group of the ACP countries. The ACP countries form a large number of countries in the GATT 1947 and I hope very shortly in the WTO. My delegation is aware that the Fourth Lomé Convention cannot resolve all the deep structural reforms that must be undertaken in these countries, and I believe that the European Community agrees with us, but I wish to mention that this Convention provides for adjustment measures in some very definite areas, and for us the provisions contained in the trade part of the Convention constitute a trade counterpart to them. I therefore thank all the contracting parties, who have not lost sight of this aspect of the problem and have agreed to join in the necessary consensus decision to resolve the problem relating to the Fourth Lomé Convention at this stage.