

**GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**SR.50/ST/13**  
22 December 1994  
Limited Distribution

(94-2893)

---

**CONTRACTING PARTIES**  
Fiftieth Session

Original: English

**NORWAY**

Statement by H.E. Mr. Terje Johannessen  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

I have the honour to make the following brief statement on behalf of the Nordic Group.

This 50th session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES is an historic event. We are witnessing the transformation of an international institution which, since it was launched with twenty-three contracting parties forty-six years ago, is now emerging as a truly global and comprehensive organization with more than 120 member nations.

The Nordic countries see this as a major step towards strengthening the multilateral trading system in scope as well as in depth, based on clear and predictable rules and an improved dispute settlement system.

The Nordic countries are pleased that the issue of transitional arrangements has been solved to the benefit of all countries involved, a fact which demonstrates the pragmatic character of GATT cooperation.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Mr. Peter Sutherland and the Secretariat, for the impressive effort they have undertaken and which has been crucial in bringing the Uruguay Round to a happy conclusion, including the launching of the World Trade Organization.

May I add, as a Norwegian delegate, that two days ago we deposited our instrument of ratification of WTO with the GATT-Secretariat.