

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNS/3

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Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Services

MEETING OF 12 DECEMBER 1986

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group of Negotiations on Services held its third meeting on 12 December 1986, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador F. Jaramillo (Colombia).
2. For purposes of the discussion of the organization of work, the Chairman submitted a draft negotiation plan identifying elements which should be taken up in the initial phase of the negotiations and which, in his view, reflected the sense of the discussions held on this matter in informal consultations. He recalled that the wording of Part II of the Ministerial Declaration set as the aim of the negotiations the establishment of a framework of principles and rules for trade in services, including elaboration of possible disciplines for individual sectors, which would have the purpose of expanding trade, promoting economic growth of all trading partners and promoting the development of developing countries. It was his understanding that throughout the process of negotiation all these elements would be kept fully in mind and that the process of elaboration of a framework would be based on a concurrent examination of all the relevant aspects that should enter into the final result, as laid down in Part II of the Ministerial Declaration. Therefore, in the negotiations, the various elements under consideration should not be artificially compartmentalized, nor should undue priority be given to any of them to the detriment of others.
3. A number of delegations pointed out that only preliminary views had been expressed at informal consultations and that it was not possible for them at this time to give reactions that were fully informed by exchanges of views with capitals. At the last informal consultations, some delegations had made it clear that they were not in a position to commit themselves and that they had substantial difficulties with the draft proposal. Regarding the list of elements, these delegations stressed that previous discussions had shown divergent views not only on the meaning but also on the ways in which they should be addressed. More time was therefore needed for the preparation and the presentation of ideas, and it was premature to consider a draft negotiating plan at this stage. Whereas the concept of a single political undertaking for the multilateral trade negotiations was to be respected, this should not mean that every step in every group should be matched by similar steps in other groups: too much parallelism might lead to paralysis. On the other hand, it was clearly necessary to establish a programme of work to get the negotiating process started. Hence they were ready to consider practical ways of doing so.
4. Other delegations, while recognizing the specificity of the negotiations on services saw a practical necessity in endorsing a

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negotiating plan for both goods and services, and they were ready to accept the Chairman's text for that purpose. Regarding the link between negotiations on goods and negotiations on services, it was noted that structures were different and that there was no way of measuring whether progress was more rapid in one structure or in the other. Each delegation would therefore have to make its own judgement in this regard. The view was also expressed that any delegation should feel confident that any issue based on the Ministerial Declaration would be negotiated at a proper time.

5. The Chairman suggested that his draft could be seen as referring to a programme of work for the initial phase of the negotiations rather than as a negotiating plan, and he proposed to revise it accordingly. Several delegations stated that the Chairman's proposal as revised, represented an acceptable basis for organizing the work of the Group in 1987.

6. After some discussion, the Chairman proposed to hold further informal consultations on the content of the programme of work for 1987 and to submit a new draft for consideration at the next meeting of the Group, which would be held on 17 December 1986.