

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED
MTN.GNG/NG1/W/19
11 October 1988
Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Tariffs

Original: English

PROPOSAL ON A STATEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE
URUGUAY ROUND TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

Submission by the United States

The Uruguay Round Negotiating Group on Tariffs has reviewed a number of proposals on modalities for the negotiations over the last two years. In that time the Group has been unable to achieve consensus on a single modality for the negotiations. However, the Group has achieved consensus on the importance of tariff liberalization and on the need for progress in advance of the Midterm Review.

In recognition of the lack of consensus on a single modality and of the fact that there appears to be no single negotiating approach which meets the practical and political needs of all parties, it is proposed that Parties agree at Montreal on the basic objectives for the negotiations expressed in terms of the ultimate results they wish to achieve.

This statement could include a number of elements. For example, it could contain a commitment to achieve an agreed outcome on tariff liberalization and a commitment on bindings. If the general outcome of the negotiations could be agreed, the statement could also address a timetable for the conduct of negotiations.

One possible formulation of the statement might be a commitment by all Uruguay Round participants to:

1. A reduction of [X] per cent in all participants' average tariff levels over a period of [X] years, using the modality of their choosing;
2. Full participation by all countries, and
3. The full binding of entire tariff schedules.

(The exact figures in the statement and the measurement of liberalization would be subject to negotiation.)

BENEFITS OF THE STATEMENT OF RESULTS

- A focus on results for the negotiations recognizes the political and practical needs of different parties to approach the negotiations in different ways, but acknowledges the obligations of all parties to participate fully in the negotiations.

- The results focus will leave to each participant the flexibility to pursue individual objectives in the manner they deem to be most effective. If a participant's major objective is to eliminate tariff peaks, tariff escalation or low duties with its major trading partners, it can target those priorities as it wishes. If a major concern is with the ability to manage the information required in the negotiations, while achieving specific negotiating objectives, the flexibility exists to combine approaches or use only one approach.

- Each participant could make its requests of other parties in terms of either a formula or a list of specific requests, depending on their own preference for the negotiations. The ultimate choice of how to proceed would rest with the parties involved, subject to agreed guidelines on transparency.