

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: English

Negotiating Group on Tariffs
Negotiating Group on Non-Tariff Measures
Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products
Negotiating Group on Textiles and Clothing
Negotiating Group on Agriculture
Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

URUGUAY ROUND - MARKET ACCESS

Communication from Bangladesh

The following communication dated 1 November 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's Offer on Market Access

Bangladesh belongs to a group of countries categorized by the United Nations as the least developed countries who are the most disadvantaged and vulnerable amongst the developing countries. Despite her stage of development characterized by debilitating socio-economic parameters common to the least developed countries and compounded further by her grave ratio of resource to population, huge unemployment and under-employment and pervasive poverty, Bangladesh has been consistently following the path of trade and economic liberalization since 1975. Under the Structural Adjustment Programmes, she brought about fundamental reforms in her import régime by implementing a series of liberalization measures, including the abolition of import licensing system. She remains committed on this path of liberalization despite the fact that she has to endure an increasing balance-of-payment difficulties. Bangladesh requests appropriate recognition of the liberalization measures she has implemented so far, particularly since the financial year 1986.

As provided in the general principles governing the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Bangladesh is neither expected to make contributions nor required to make concessions that are inconsistent with her least-developed country status as well as her development, financial and trade needs. Further, on the basis of the commitment of the

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participants to the Round, at paragraph B(vii) of Part 1 of the Ministerial declaration on the Uruguay Round, Bangladesh, along with other least developed countries, is a candidate for special treatment in all areas of negotiations under the Round. Nevertheless, partly out of practical consideration and partly with a view to making its token contribution to the historic trade liberalization process that the Uruguay Round is set to achieve, Bangladesh offers to bind the tariffs on the products listed in the attachment hereto¹ at the ceiling level of 50 per cent. The average of these bound tariffs represents a substantial reduction over the average of statutory/applied tariffs on these products.

This offer is conditional and without commitment and is made on the basis that a final decision on binding individual tariffs of Bangladesh will be taken after an assessment of the overall concessions made by other participants concerning areas of particular trade interest to Bangladesh as well as on the basis of the precise content of special treatment that Bangladesh, as a least-developed country, would be receiving in all areas of negotiations. This offer may be withdrawn, in whole or in part, modified or substituted, if Bangladesh's industrial trading partners do not eliminate tariffs, tariff peaks, tariff escalation and, as appropriate non-tariff measures, applicable to all products for which Bangladesh is a principal supplier or a substantial supplier, and to products which account for a significant share of Bangladesh's exports.

This offer is applicable to the following market access negotiating areas: Tariffs, Non-Tariff Measures, Agriculture, Tropical Products, Natural Resource-Based Products and Textiles and Clothing.

¹To be circulated to participants in the relevant Negotiating Groups.