

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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COSTA RICA

Statement by H.E. Mr. R. Saborio Soto,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Mr. Chairman, first of all I should like to express on behalf of my Government our satisfaction at today's outcome and our sincere thanks for your wise guidance; gratitude is also due to your predecessor, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, for the work he accomplished. I should also like to express my gratitude to all the parties present who have contributed to this success. I must also mention the valuable work of the Secretariat and the Friends of the Chair. Today, we are on the threshold of a new era which is the fruit of more than seven years of intensive work. There can be little doubt that the Uruguay Round represents the biggest effort so far undertaken to strengthen the multilateral system. Achievements such as those in the area of dispute settlement, regulatory aspects and the creation of the World Trade Organization all help to establish the balance necessary to take into account the interests of small countries. We have witnessed an enormous effort on the part of developing countries and I should like to underline this today. Latin America in particular has stood out in this connection and has shown that the trade liberalization which has taken place in the majority of Latin American countries represents a firm and broad commitment, which should be matched by access for developing countries. The path followed has been the right one and we note with satisfaction the incorporation of areas such as textiles and agriculture in the system's rules.

Nevertheless, the Government of Costa Rica has come here today leaving pending one issue of extreme importance, but we are sure it will be satisfactorily resolved before the date mentioned of 31 March. I would like to reiterate our Government's warm appreciation for your guidance and efforts towards achieving our common objective: the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.