

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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SENEGAL

Statement by H.E. Mr. Alioune Sene
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

My delegation fully shares the views just expressed by the Ambassador of Egypt, Coordinator of the African Group.

The scope and tenor of his statement make it possible for me to limit myself to some aspects which we believe are essential.

First of all, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the intensive efforts you have made to bring to an end the trade negotiations under the Uruguay Round.

You have achieved this positive result through your own expertise, but also and above all through the efficiency of your collaborators in the Secretariat.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

I should like to emphasize that, in comparison with other continents, Africa suffers from special handicaps which mean that its development process faces much greater obstacles than elsewhere.

To the limitations of geography must be added the weakness of infrastructure, inadequate training, lack of capital and the unfavourable gap between export earnings and import spending.

In order to meet the challenge, Senegal has elaborated a far-reaching action programme which is currently being implemented with a view to speeding up our country's march towards progress and growth.

This preliminary effort on our own initiative has aroused considerable interest and a real feeling of solidarity in the world.

However, the extent of the problem is so vast that any international aid is rapidly insufficient if it is not accompanied by greater openness of markets and the development of trade.

Aware of this, Senegal decided to take part in the Uruguay Round negotiations in order to promote its trade with the rest of the world and, at the same time, ensure its more harmonious integration in the global economy.

It is easy therefore to imagine what Senegal feels today, when the trade negotiations have resulted in the acceptance by all partners of the establishment of an organized system capable of giving all countries, small and large, rich or poor, the means to benefit fully from the advantages of a multilateral

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trade system, in particular through the creation of an institution capable of dealing with aspects of interdependence in this area.

Senegal has endeavoured to meet all its obligations under the Uruguay Round in the light of its possibilities and within the framework of the principles agreed at Punta del Este in 1986. My country therefore justifiably expects in return that the results of the cycle of trade negotiations will be translated into positive effects for its economy.

Nevertheless, it must be stated that the fact that our trade only concerns certain products whose prices are subject to sizeable market fluctuations makes it illusory to expect too much. This momentum has always managed to decrease on one side what has been laboriously achieved on the other.

By defining today the rights and duties of partners, their prerogatives and obligations, priority activities and the means of control, cooperation should have a chance of entering a new era: one of more rational organization of trade, more equitable distribution of interests and advantages.

We all know, however, that the recognition of mutual interests does not always lead to the satisfaction of mutual needs. Therefore, until in practise there is a concrete adjustment of the interests at stake, the Uruguay Round will remain simply a trade negotiation process.

This implies the need for a new commitment on the part of industrialized countries to give greater assistance to developing countries in making their economies more competitive and better able to derive advantages from multilateral trade negotiations.

This is why Senegal hopes for considered and effective utilization of our complementarity so that our hopes of today become the realities of tomorrow. The world has shown that it has the technical ability and the political determination. This goodwill explains why in seven years of intensive discussions, the different interests at stake which separate our countries never managed to divide them.

It is now time to take action.

In this connection, I would like to reaffirm our determination to implement all the provisions agreed in the Final Act.

It has already been decided to review all Senegal's trade policies and practices at the GATT Council at the beginning of 1994. This is clear proof of my country's determination to assume its responsibilities resulting from its commitment to open up to others and unceasingly to seek new opportunities in all regions of the globe.

Finally, Senegal hopes that after assessing the results of the Uruguay Round in the light of the social well-being of their peoples, all States will be able to reaffirm their conviction that they have done useful work in boarding the global economy's train.

I cannot conclude without saying how much my country welcomes the fact that the participants have unanimously chosen to hold the closing meeting of the Uruguay Round in Africa, in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Senegal is already certain that Morocco, a brother and a friend, faithful to its traditions, will once again put to good use the generosity and hospitality of its people in order to ensure the success of the meeting.