

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/40/ST/37
24 January 1994
Special Distribution

(UR-94-0039)

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: French

MOROCCO

Statement by H.E. Mr. El Ghali Benhima,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

My delegation endorses the statements made by Ambassador Haron on behalf of developing countries and by Ambassador Zahran on behalf of African countries.

After seven years of continuous and often difficult negotiations which occasionally raised serious doubts concerning the conclusion of the Round, today, Mr. Chairman, we can say that we have finished our work, thus fulfilling the unanimous desire of the trade community to see the negotiations reach a successful conclusion.

We have always stated unequivocally that only one path was possible, that of international trade within a multilateral system of agreed and transparent rules. Such a system is the vital factor in global economic growth and prosperity. This is why we have continually given our support to the Round and have taken independent initiatives to achieve the objectives of the negotiations. The series of liberalization measures which we have taken in tariff and non-tariff sectors, etc.; the substantial offers we have made in the context of market access, as an example, our industrial and agricultural offers together will lead to an increase from 28 per cent to 100 per cent in the integral binding of our customs tariff; our offer on trade in services, which presents obvious advantages both as regards the degree of liberalization and sectoral cover; all these initiatives and actions underline the open and constructive spirit with which we have taken part in the negotiations.

Regarding our assessment of this package of twenty-eight trade agreements, at this stage we are obliged to adopt the so-called "helicopter" method according to which one is close enough to see the details of the picture but far enough away to perceive the broad outlines.

Among these broad outlines, for us the priority is market access. The success of our structural adjustment, principally based on exports, is dependent on this. In this connection, the requests we have made to our partners in a number of sectors, including fruit and vegetables, textiles and clothing, leather and footwear, cut flowers, fisheries products, etc., are of fundamental importance to us. We hope that, through the verification procedure, our partners will unilaterally make better offers concerning the products I have just mentioned.

Over and above the figures and the careful scrutiny which governments will certainly undertake, today we can say that there is one great winner: the strengthened multilateral trade system of which you are henceforward the guarantor and depositary.

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Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, I should like to express to you our deep gratitude for your dedication, your self-sacrifice and your ability always to provide a new impetus to the negotiations. We are glad that your efforts were not in vain. We also pay tribute to all those who contributed to the fruition of the event we are celebrating today. I would specially like to mention your predecessor who guided our first steps in the maze of negotiations known to be complex, as well as the Friends of the Chairman whose professional abilities, dedication and perseverance need to be underlined. The members of the secretariat also deserve our gratitude.

In conclusion, I should like to quote from St. Exupéry where the fox says to the Petit Prince that "it is the time you take for your rose that makes your rose so important". For us, the Uruguay Round is that important rose which we must handle gently so that it can give off all its scent.