

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
Marrakesh (Morocco), 12-15 April 1994

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MEXICO

Statement by Mr. Jaime Serra Puche
Secretary for Trade and Industrial Development

The Uruguay Round has been the most ambitious multilateral trade negotiation of all times. For the first time in the history of the world trading system there will be clear rules governing investment and intellectual property rights, and a general agreement on trade in services.

Today, the world's attention is focused on Marrakesh. The present meeting is the culmination of the endeavours of peoples who for more than five years have striven to achieve the noble aim of bringing the world's nations together through trade. Mexico welcomes the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

To open up trade with reciprocity - I repeat, with reciprocity - is to generate a better and fairer distribution of income.

In recent years a number of developing countries, Mexico among them, have been implementing adjustment measures that require increasingly open economies. For those countries the results of the Uruguay Round signify recognition of their individual liberalization processes.

The opening up of trade with reciprocity, coupled with better conditions for competitiveness in production plants, implies an increase in the scale of production and the redistribution of profit margins. The Uruguay Round will further the creation of new jobs and growth in the wage levels of our workers.

The force set in motion by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round requires us to focus on what is really essential: the liberalization of world trade.

Mexico believes that the three fundamental aims of the World Trade Organization must be:

- first, to deepen trade liberalization on a reciprocal basis by eliminating the barriers and distortions that still remain in various sectors of production;
- second, to update and perfect the disciplines of the multilateral trade system in order to eliminate unilateral measures and reverse protectionist tendencies; and
- third, to ensure appropriate interaction between competition policy and trade measures in order to combat unfair practices.

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Respect for the environment and the protection of workers' rights have received priority in Mexico. Our commitment to these tasks is reflected in the cooperation agreements recently negotiated with our North American trading partners.

Protection of the environment and workers' rights must go hand in hand with efforts to liberalize world trade, for progress in liberalization generates resources and opportunities to improve the environment and the well-being of workers.

Mexico is in favour of protection of the environment and workers' rights, but not disguised trade protectionism.

The Mexican delegation expresses its gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, and the Government and people of Morocco for their hospitality in this historic city of Marrakesh, and its appreciation of the efficient organization of the work for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.