

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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ZAMBIA

Statement by the Hon. D. Patel
Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry

I wish to express Zambia's sincere gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II and to his Government and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this Ministerial Meeting, for their traditional warm hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided for the meeting in this wonderful city of Marrakesh. The convening of this final Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round here in Morocco is further testimony of Morocco's commitment to a multilateral framework for trade. This commitment has been reaffirmed in the important opening address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, to whom my delegation extends its deep appreciation.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's confidence in your competence to guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion. You are an eminent representative of a country which has made a valuable contribution to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and to a strong multilateral trading system.

My delegation would like to pay special tribute to Mr. Peter Sutherland, Director-General of GATT, for his competent leadership of our institution, for his constructive role in the crucial final phase of the Uruguay Round, and for his skilful guidance of the preparations for this meeting. His predecessor, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, also deserves our sincere appreciation for his dedicated services during his 13 years as Director-General of GATT.

Zambia welcomes the successful conclusion of the Round after seven years of protracted and painstaking negotiations. It reflects an important achievement in our sustained efforts to establish genuine international cooperation based on a strong multilateral trading system. In this regard the Round also engenders expectations for effective solutions for the development problems afflicting the developing countries, especially the least developed among them. However, it is also our firm conviction that the provisions of the Round do not adequately reflect the concerns and aspirations of these countries. Indeed, in certain important respects the Round is more conspicuous in its glaring omissions.

The developing countries played an indispensable role in the negotiations leading to the successful conclusion of the Round. Their active participation was a manifestation of their conviction of the fundamental benefits accruing from multilateral trade liberalization, stronger and clearer rules and a strengthened dispute settlement system. The potential benefits of more trade, investment, employment and income growth worldwide could and must serve to underpin their economic reforms and development efforts. Clearly, a transparent, predictable and supportive world trading system is indispensable to the success of such efforts. It constitutes a firm foundation for their sustained development and stability and for a more prosperous and peaceful world.

However, for the least-developed countries, it is evident that their benefits from the Round will only accrue from their effective participation in the world trading system. This, in turn, will be

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determined by the availability of better trading opportunities in the developed markets for products of interest to them.

The industrialized countries should therefore support such efforts by facilitating their effective participation in the world trading system. They must also resist domestic pressures for protectionism manifested through concerns regarding social, labour or environmental conditions in exporting developing countries.

We urge full implementation of all special and differential measures in favour of these countries to facilitate the expansion of their trading opportunities. Substantial technical assistance and increased technical cooperation and investment flows will be crucial in developing, strengthening, and diversifying their production and export bases. More technical and financial assistance to the least-developed and net food-importing developing countries such as Zambia will also facilitate the improvement of their agricultural infrastructure and productivity. My delegation also supports the views expressed by the Honourable Minister of Bangladesh on behalf of the least-developed countries.

It is significant that this meeting is being held on African soil. This is a singular honour for the African Continent. Nevertheless, African countries in general and the least developed in particular are still unable to participate effectively in the world trading system. They must therefore not be further marginalized by any negative impact of the Uruguay Round, such as the erosion of substantial preferential margins of the ACP States in European Community markets. Accordingly, such preferences must be maintained and their trading opportunities in the industrial markets should be improved. This would boost their export earnings and facilitate more investment, production and employment. Increased export earnings would also facilitate effective solutions for their critical external debt problems.

To ensure the implementation of all special and differential measures, my delegation would like to stress the importance of regular reviews of the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round in the appropriate bodies to be established under the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is also our considered view that a comprehensive assessment of the results of the Round by the WTO Secretariat will be necessary in order to mitigate possible negative effects through appropriate measures.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of the WTO. The WTO will complement the important functions of the IMF and the World Bank, in the monetary and financial fields, with which our Organization must ensure effective coordination. The WTO and its subsidiary bodies can and must function to fulfil the objectives we, the contracting parties, have set for them. In particular, the WTO should be responsive to the unfulfilled aspirations of the developing countries. However, the success and effectiveness of our new institutional framework will depend on the positive efforts of all of us. For sure, it is, ultimately, our political will, individually and collectively, that will give effect to the various commitments and concessions embodied in the Round and our Ministerial Declarations and Decisions.

I wish to reaffirm Zambia's commitment to trade liberalization and the principles of the multilateral trading system. Zambia's commitment to trade liberalization is a manifestation of the comprehensive economic reforms undertaken alongside our democratic political liberalization over the past two years.

The rapid pace of our trade liberalization in a short period of time poses major challenges domestically, regionally and internationally. Domestically, the policies have entailed significant costs for some industries and enterprises. However, these costs are inevitable in our determined efforts to privatize, to improve productivity and to enhance the competitiveness of our commercial enterprises. We are confident that the long-term benefits of these autonomous policies will outweigh the costs in the short-term. Regionally and internationally, Zambia's rapid pace of trade liberalization and the

resultant opening up of her domestic markets also pose challenges for our trading partners to adopt similar liberalization policies and to implement fair and mutually beneficial trading practices.

In conclusion, I wish to express our determination to implement the commitments we have successfully negotiated with our trading partners.