

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
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MADAGASCAR

Statement by H.E. Mr. Jacques Sylla
Minister for Foreign Affairs

It is a great privilege for me, and for the Malagasy delegation, which I lead, to be present here and to participate in this Ministerial Meeting, which brings together distinguished delegates from all countries concerned by the future of international trade.

The name of the city of Marrakesh recalls the prestige of the eternal imperial cities; to the beauty of its monuments and the magic of its atmosphere must be added the splendour of the Palais des Congrès in which we are meeting.

I should also like to thank the Moroccan Government and people, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II, for their kind hospitality.

All the conditions are united to allow us formally to close the Uruguay Round and are a gage of the success of our work.

Like those who have preceded me, I should like to seize the opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who have worked so effectively since the beginning of the negotiations in Punta del Este and have brought the Round to a successful conclusion: I would like to cite in particular Mr. Arthur Dunkel and Mr. Peter Sutherland, the successive Directors-General of GATT who with great competence and professionalism guided the work of the negotiators, thereby making an additional contribution to the success of this vast enterprise.

This is a historic meeting because we must approve and sign the Final Act on the outcome of the Uruguay negotiations, undertaken in response to the vital need to adopt strengthened and adequate measures to underpin a global strategy indispensable for the world of the twenty-first century.

At the multilateral level, the results of the Uruguay Round are today before us. It is a vast achievement, an essential cornerstone for member countries working towards sustainable development.

The aim of the multilateral trading system is to give the contracting parties more stable, more predictable and consequently more secure trade relations and it has now been given strengthened and improved instruments, including the mechanism for dispute settlement in order to prevent members from having recourse to arbitrary or unilateral measures in the event of trade conflicts and the trade policy review mechanism to ensure the coherence of financial and economic policies at the global level.

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My delegation welcomes the inclusion among the future activities of the World Trade Organization (WTO) of such an important issue as environment and trade. Although environmental concerns are already specifically mentioned in a number of the final agreements of the Uruguay Round, more detailed studies should be undertaken in this area so as to examine the relationship between trade and environmental measures. This is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development, which for Madagascar means improved standards of living for the people through the best possible use of resources while at the same time protecting and conserving the environment.

Madagascar is convinced that the multilateral trading system has been framed so as to allow and even encourage the integration of all the world's trading nations within its framework, whatever the size of their economies.

It also believes that the system will guarantee equitable relations of interdependence among global economies, particularly in the area of trade.

Madagascar has therefore always shown its political determination to support this system. Despite the difficult economic situation it faces, which resulted in Madagascar being classified in the group of least-developed countries, it has always made the efforts necessary for effective participation in the Round by submitting its schedules of concessions to the extent of its modest possibilities.

In steadfastly committing its economy to liberalization, within the framework of a policy of openness towards the world as a whole, Madagascar has already formulated measures to promote investment opportunities.

To carry out this task, Madagascar calls for the cooperation of the international community, because in order to implement its national economic development programme and the expansion of its foreign trade, trade liberalization measures must be accompanied by transfers of finance and technology.

Reaffirming today its confidence in the international community united within the multilateral trading system, Madagascar expresses the following hopes: (i) that it be given the technical assistance essential for its improved integration; (ii) that there be a better understanding of its current situation so as to help it in dealing with its major concern, which is the struggle against poverty; (iii) that measures be envisaged to remedy any negative effects of the reforms on its economy, particularly in the context of special and differentiated treatment for developing countries and least-developed countries.

These concerns are those of the least-developed countries and Madagascar associates itself with the joint statement made by the delegation of Bangladesh.