

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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MOROCCO

Statement by Mr. Mourad Cherif
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As we prepare to sign the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, it gives me particular pleasure to welcome you to the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the King.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for having chosen Marrakesh as the venue for this historic meeting.

I wish to express our appreciation to the Director-General for the part he played in bringing the negotiators' standpoints closer together, thus greatly contributing to the success of the Round. May I also pay a special tribute to his predecessor as Director-General, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, who spared no effort to bring the Round to a successful conclusion.

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the successful completion of these negotiations today.

Together we have succeeded in putting in place an entirely new framework for international economic cooperation, so as to spur world economic growth which will certainly have an impact upon employment, production and investment.

We consider that the multilateral trading system, strengthened by agreed, stable, transparent and non-discriminatory rules, is the best guarantee of sustainable and equitable economic development.

The signing of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round is certainly a major victory for multilateralism, especially for the emerging trading nations, but we must jointly keep up our guard against the continuing threat of protectionism in all its forms.

The Kingdom of Morocco has constantly sought to play an active rallying role in the negotiations.

This approach stems from our belief and faith in the multilateral trading system, to which our country has always adhered in the conduct of its trade with the rest of the world.

The Moroccan economy is one of the most open. The economic reforms we have carried out over the last decade were framed with a view to integrating our economy into the world economy.

These reforms were adopted not only for reasons of economic efficiency but also to reaffirm the liberal option, in both economic and political matters, which the Kingdom of Morocco, under the enlightened leadership of his Majesty the King, has chosen since its independence.

The process of trade liberalization which we have completed has been underpinned by the adoption at national level of a set of measures, that are fully consistent with the fundamental principles of GATT, aimed at speeding up the process of modernization and restructuring of the Moroccan economy.

The commitments made by our country in the Uruguay Round framework, whether with respect to trade in goods, intellectual property or services, are entirely in keeping with this process and constitute our contribution to the liberalization of world trade.

We have succeeded in overcoming all the obstacles and concluded the Round, but our efforts would be in vain if we did not show the same determination and the same unswerving resolution in implementing the agreements we have reached.

In this connection, the Kingdom of Morocco underlines the need to terminate the ratification procedure as soon as possible and to implement the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Uruguay Round through concrete national measures.

Although the Uruguay Round provides a historic opportunity for developing countries to diversify their trade outlets, it is nevertheless true that facilities for access to markets in industrialized countries, especially for certain sensitive products, are a necessary condition for the development of developing countries as a whole.

The international community and the World Trade Organization must give these countries all the help needed to ensure that, whatever their level of development or their share of world trade, they can all take advantage of this new multilateral trading system.

It is only through such cooperation that developing countries will be able to benefit from the more predictable, open and equitable multilateral trading system to be established for the conduct of foreign trade and the settlement of disputes.

In particular, special attention must be paid to the effects of the Round on developing countries, especially the least-developed countries, by ensuring full application of special and differential treatment.

It will also be necessary to envisage a periodic review of these effects, and take corrective measures where needed.

The Kingdom of Morocco, proud of being part of the African continent, also wishes to take the opportunity to emphasize the importance of allowing Africa to become fully integrated in this new international system, so as to enable it to develop its vast economic potential and achieve harmonious economic and social development.

Finally, we note with satisfaction that the Uruguay Round retains the possibility of concluding regional agreements in conformity with the provisions of Article XXIV of GATT.

In this connection, Morocco is linked with the European Union by a preferential cooperation agreement which largely determines the size and diversity of trade flows to the Community market, in particular for agricultural products.

This agreement automatically remains legally valid today. Its Article 25 provides precisely for the maintenance of the benefits provided for in the preferential regime in the event of a modification of the regulatory environment. That is the case today with the new provisions of the Uruguay Round.

Morocco wishes not only to consolidate this status but also to develop it into a genuine association with the European Union, with in particular the progressive establishment of a free-trade area.

We are all aware of the interdependence of trade, financial and monetary policies. It is now necessary to work towards integrated management of these three aspects of international economic cooperation so that their effects on international trade can be controlled better and new distortions of international trade thus be avoided.

The objective of our efforts to establish a multilateral surveillance system should be both to coordinate macroeconomic policies and also to ensure that these policies are compatible with the requirements of development policy. In our view, the latter element is the true cornerstone of the new global economic order.

The link between trade and the environment has often been the focus of our concerns. During the Round we discussed the implications of a number of ecological issues for international trade without however managing to circumscribe all aspects of the problem.

How can we reconcile free trade and environmental protection? This is a question to which we must devote our attention so that measures taken for ecological reasons do not lead to new forms of protection of national economies.

In this context, the Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the adoption of the recent decision on trade and environment, under which the WTO General Council is directed to establish a Committee that will be responsible for ensuring the responsiveness of the multilateral trading system to environmental objectives set forth in Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Environment of June 1992.

This endeavour, however necessary it may be, will only be successful in so far as the WTO can at the same time resist new forms of restrictive business practices.

We welcome the unanimous and constructive decision to include this particular subject among the tasks of the WTO.

In future, we should give priority to agreed multilateral solutions to global environmental problems because they would be more effective and long-lasting than unilateral measures, which are a source of confrontation in the area of trade.

The most important aspect of the Uruguay Round is the fact that we have agreed upon a permanent framework for cooperation and reform at the global level, whose point of departure is the agreements we are about to sign.

The new WTO will allow us to bring to an end the provisional status of GATT 1947, and will in particular allow the transition from a trade system limited to measures at the border to a system which touches upon all aspects of national policies, for example, services, investment, intellectual property, etc.

The future of the world is today at the centre of the aspirations of our final Ministerial Meeting in Marrakesh. The wisdom which has prevailed over all these years and brought solutions to trade and political issues reassures us as to the future of mankind.

Morocco will devote its efforts to that end.