

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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at Ministerial Level  
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**OPENING ADDRESS BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
CROWN PRINCE SIDI MOHAMMED**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of His Majesty King HASSAN II, may God assist him, I am honoured to open this GATT Ministerial Conference which consecrates the outcome of the Uruguay Round, initiated seven years ago in Punta del Este.

I would like, on behalf of His Majesty the King, to welcome all the participants in this Conference and express the honour and pride felt by the Moroccan people over the choice of the Kingdom of Morocco to host this historic meeting.

I would also like to pay tribute to all those who contributed through their efforts and resolve to the success of the negotiating round.

Our meeting here in Marrakesh takes place at the close of the most ambitious trade negotiations in world economic history. We should be proud of this stride towards a more open world which will be, through the dynamism of exchanges between nations and the lifting of barriers and protectionist regulations, a source of prosperity and welfare for the peoples worldwide.

Thanks to its privileged geographical location that makes of it a link between various continents, Morocco has a natural vocation for international exchanges.

Morocco, on account of its history and culture, remained faithful to a tradition of openness rooted in the fundamental values and choices of a society which opted politically for democracy and the multi-party system and economically for the liberal system; a society that is attached to the principles of freedom and cooperation between peoples.

Morocco's economic history is, in this regard, full of trade conventions, accords and treaties concluded in a spirit of free trade between the Kingdom of Morocco and the big nations of the world.

The policy drawn up by His Majesty King HASSAN II during the past decades, which is basically oriented towards political and economic liberalism, helped our country speed up its development and stand today as an emerging country.

Your presence here in Marrakesh confirms that our choices are right.

Since 1947, the successive rounds of GATT negotiations have considerably helped lower the obstacles and barriers to international trade and thus give a growing impetus to the world economy.

Negotiations initiated within the Uruguay Round aimed, for their part, at accelerating the process of liberalizing international trade in a bid to integrate new sensitive sectors such as agriculture and services.

Morocco acceded to the GATT in 1987 and has since then kept on playing an active part in these negotiations.

Our country thus gave evidence of its will to keep pace with the process of developing and modernizing its economy.

Morocco clearly committed to abide by the regulations and rules that are to govern international trade.

Today, our country is resolved to mobilize all its assets in order to hold its position in the new international environment brought about by the Uruguay Round.

Morocco sought, in the latest negotiations, to play a moderating and unifying role, in line with its policy and tradition.

This action is embodied in the sustained defence of the interests of developing countries.

I would like on this occasion to pay tribute to the constructive part played by developing countries in ensuring the success of the negotiations.

The development strategy of these countries is closely linked to greater access to the markets of industrialized countries and we hope the latter will be more responsive to the expectations of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were created at Bretton Woods. The United Nations Organization was set up in San Francisco. Today, we all are witnessing here in Marrakesh what will be the legal and institutional pillar of international trade in the twenty-first century.

We are most proud and happy to see the Kingdom of Morocco and the city of Marrakesh associated with this historic event which has an impact on the whole world.

Morocco will spare no effort to contribute to the success of the World Trade Organization and we are resolved to follow up and back its action, for we believe in this institution and in the goal we are seeking to reach together.

Once more, I welcome you to Morocco and wish you every success in your work.