

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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SENEGAL

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Historical, cultural and geographical links built up over many years have created between the Kingdom of Morocco and Senegal a network of solidarity and friendship which today justifies the great pride we feel in seeing this friendly country and its Sovereign, His Majesty King Hassan II, welcome the international community here in Marrakesh on the occasion of the formal signature of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round.

For a few days, Marrakesh will thus be the capital of the world for harmony, cooperation and peace among peoples.

Future generations will remember that, after Bretton Woods in 1944, which saw the birth of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, then San Francisco in 1945 when the United Nations Organization was established, now 125 countries have chosen the Kingdom of Morocco in Africa in which to sign the GATT agreements and create the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Senegal, my country and its people, its Government and Head of State, President Abdou Diouf, wish on this occasion to pay tribute to their brothers in Morocco and to its Sovereign, His Majesty King Hassan II, for having invited the world to this great appointment with the history of mankind.

My country belongs to the group of developing countries members of GATT.

As such, it includes the conditions for its economic and social and development in the new momentum for harmonization, consultation and solidarity opened up by the new framework of GATT, laying emphasis on our special needs and specific problems, for example:

- customs tariffs;
- liberalization of world trade;
- regional economic integration;
- export of agricultural, mining and fisheries products;
- development of crafts industries and small-scale and medium-scale industries and enterprises;
- monitoring of domestic trade policies and support for developing countries in the area of tariff negotiations and amendments to lists of products;
- South-North and South-South immigration policies as new elements of international trade.

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In addition, issues related to vocational training and the employment of graduates from our technical universities and schools should receive close attention from the international community.

In the same context, the benefits obtained within the framework of agreements between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) should be taken into account, even improved and broadened.

Bearing that in mind, the mechanism for the review and monitoring of trade policies, deemed to be one of the foremost results of the Uruguay Round, should allow developing countries such as Senegal to benefit from the transparency of trade policies and practices and the improvement of aspects of the public debate on international trade relations.

It is important now to promote a more just and more balanced system for the regulation of international trade between the North and the South.

The Final Act of the Uruguay Round opens up new spheres for cooperation and economic development in the various areas: the agreements on customs tariffs, on agricultural products, on textiles and clothing, on technical barriers to trade, on investment to promote the development of trade, on import licences, on customs valuation, on anti-dumping measures, on subsidies and countervailing measures, and on procedures for the settlement of trade disputes, are all mechanisms which should be of the greatest benefit to our countries in the new era opening up after this international meeting in Marrakesh.

It is the time and place for us to launch an appeal to the world meeting here for solidarity, through mutual information, because the African continent cannot remain indefinitely in a situation of structural weakness, placing it in an increasingly hazardous position as a result of its limited participation in world trade in goods and services.

We should harmonize our efforts, to good end, and in such a spirit we should endeavour to understand and assess the legal and economic scope of the agreements we are about to sign. In this connection, Senegal has proposed to the Director-General of GATT the convening of a regional seminar at Dakar in the near future in order to assess the results of the Uruguay Round and become better familiarized with the complex mechanisms contained in the Final Act.

I should like to conclude by expressing the hope that the vital question of the environment and the protection of nature should also be at the centre of our priorities because the surroundings in which mankind lives to a large extent determine the conditions of development, especially in countries of the South, which still find it difficult to combat effectively threats of ecological aggression or environmental destruction.

In this connection, we should also like to reaffirm our confidence in Mr. Peter Sutherland, Director-General of GATT, whose qualities we should like to underline, because he has been able to guide the complex negotiations of the Uruguay Round with intelligence, competence and considerable mastery of the issues.

More than ever, mankind must be fully aware that today the world has become a vast village as a result of technological progress. More than ever, the international community must show its solidarity and prevent any division into the poor and the rich, the wealthy and those with nothing, because the future resides in harmony, solidarity and peace.