

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/6
15 April 1994
General Distribution
(UR-94-0220)

Trade Negotiations Committee
at Ministerial Level
Marrakesh (Morocco), 12-15 April 1994

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY H. E. MR SERGIO ABREU BONILLA,
CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE EASTERN REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

At the Ministerial session at Punta del Este in September 1986, we decided to launch the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In the Punta del Este Declaration we established the objectives, general principles and subjects for negotiations as well as conditions for participation and modalities of organization.

Today, seven and a half years later, we can take pride in the fact that 125 participants have completed the most comprehensive round of trade negotiations in the history of GATT.

Since we began our meeting here in Marrakesh last Tuesday, over 100 speakers have given their assessment of the results and have suggested new areas of work for the organization we have decided to create, the World Trade Organization. With the adoption of yesterday's Decisions and the signature of the Final Act and the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO later today, we will formally end the Uruguay Round. However, before I close our plenary session, it is appropriate to highlight some themes and suggestions that have been put forward by participants in the course of our debate, without of course attempting to capture each and every nuance of the views expressed.

We must highlight the fact that overall we have successfully carried out the basic objectives of the mandate agreed at Punta del Este. Notwithstanding the tumultuous economic and political events of the past seven and a half years, all participants in these negotiations have undertaken considerable efforts to improve conditions of market access. Thus, the targets we agreed in Montreal have been attained and we have important obligations that have been undertaken in relation to the binding of tariffs. Noteworthy too has been the engagement of the developing and least-developed countries in the process of contributing their share to this global effort to reduce trade barriers. As a result, we can point to the fact that the implementation of the Uruguay Round results will lead to more stable, secure and predictable conditions for trade based upon open markets and strengthened rules of competition in the world economy.

The new rules contained in 28 multilateral agreements deal with sectors as diverse as agriculture, textiles and clothing, subsidies, anti-dumping, safeguards, trade-related investment measures, and the Dispute Settlement Understanding. They provide an assurance of equitable conditions of market access to all participants. The new General Agreement on Trade in Services and the associated package of initial commitments add a new dimension to the multilateral trading system, while the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights represents a significant broadening of the rules of the system.

./.

The Trade Policy Review Mechanism will enable the regular evaluation of policies and their impact on the functioning of the multilateral trading system.

A further major theme of our debate has been the role that multilateral cooperation must play as the foundation for trade relations amongst nations. It is in order to implement this principle on a permanent basis that we have agreed that the results of the negotiations constitute a single undertaking, based on the World Trade Organization as a new international institution. To that end, we have decided to establish a Preparatory Committee with the aim of ensuring that the new organization will begin to function on 1 January 1995. We have all pledged to submit the agreements adopted for formal approval in accordance with our respective constitutional procedures.

In the statements which they made in the course of this meeting, Ministers representing a number of participating delegations stressed the importance they attach to their requests for an examination of the relationship between the trading system and internationally recognized labour standards, the relationship between immigration policies and international trade, trade and competition policy, including rules on export financing and restrictive business practices, trade and investment, regionalism, the interaction between trade policies and policies relating to financial and monetary matters, including debt, and commodity markets, international trade and company law, the establishment of a mechanism for compensation for the erosion of preferences, the link between trade, development, political stability and the alleviation of poverty, and unilateral or extraterritorial trade measures.

I wish to take note of the fact that in taking our Decision on the Establishment of the Preparatory Committee, we have agreed - in paragraph 8(c)(iii) of the Decision - that a function of the Preparatory Committee will be to discuss suggestions for the inclusion of additional items in the agenda of the WTO's work programme.

It is understood, therefore, that these suggestions will be taken up by the Preparatory Committee pursuant to paragraph 8(c)(iii) of the aforesaid Preparatory Committee Decision.

Our decisions also provide for the convening of an Implementation Conference later this year. Since the sole purpose of the Implementation Conference will be to decide formally on the date of entry into force of the Agreement, it would seem appropriate that this meeting take place at the level of senior officials. Thus, the next occasion for Ministers to meet would normally be the first Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled to take place within two years of the entry into force of the WTO Agreement. In this context, I am sure you have all taken note of the kind offer of the Government of Singapore to host the event.

I should like to draw attention to the fact that the market access schedules in goods of some participants which are either least-developed countries or countries which became contracting parties under Article XXVI:5(c) of the GATT 1947 have been attached to the Marrakesh Protocol on the understanding that the status of these schedules will remain provisional until they have been duly verified. This is in addition to the schedules of participants to which paragraph 5 of the Final Act applies which also attached to the Marrakesh Protocol on a provisional basis. In all these cases, the procedures for the examination and approval of the schedules of the participants concerned are provided for in the decision adopted yesterday on the Acceptance of and Accession to the WTO Agreement.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round has resulted in a politico-legal reality and a message. A reality which incorporates new forms of relations and concrete results of the negotiations in international trade. And a message of hope and confidence which, thanks to the hospitality of the Government of Morocco, Ministers participating in this Ministerial Meeting are sending to the world in our joint resolve to contribute through better, equitable, just and free trade relations to building a more prosperous future for all of mankind.