

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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DECLARATION OF QUITO AND PLAN OF ACTION

Communication from Ecuador

The following communication, dated 12 March 1984, has been received from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador.

Having regard to the international economic crisis which is affecting Latin America and the Caribbean in a particularly severe and unprecedented manner, the Constitutional President of Ecuador, Doctor Osvaldo Hurtado, requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economy System (SELA) to draw up a set of proposals designed to develop the region's capacity for response and to strengthen their co-operation systems.

Following this initiative, and with the unanimous endorsement of the governments in the region, the Secretariats of SELA and ECLA, with the support and collaboration of other regional and other sub-regional organizations, undertook actions and technical studies to seek adequate mechanisms making up a Joint Action Plan to cope with the harmful effects of the crisis.

For their part, the Governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries carried out consultations at political level, designed to arrive at a concerted position in the Latin American Economic Conference which took place at Quito, with the presence of the Presidents of Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Vice-Presidents of Cuba and Peru, and personal representatives of the Heads of State or Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, on 12 and 13 January of this year.

At the conclusion of the Latin American Economic Conference, President Osvaldo Hurtado was entrusted with the pleasant task of formally transmitting the texts of the Quito Declaration and the Plan of Action signed at that Conference to the Heads of State or Government of developing countries which are members of the Group of 77 and the Heads of State or Government of the industrialized countries as well as to the appropriate international, regional and sub-regional institutions and organizations.

One copy of the Declaration of Quito and Plan of Action is herewith circulated to each contracting party.

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Accordingly, on the instructions of the President of the Republic, I have pleasure in forwarding to you herewith three copies of the final documents resulting from the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean representatives.

It is my hope that the measures adopted at the above-mentioned meeting will together not only contribute to foster the process of regional economic development but will secure more effective international co-operation in conditions corresponding to the gravity of the present crisis, so that Latin America and the Caribbean, like the other developing countries, can once again become dynamic elements for prompt reactivation of the world economy.