

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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POLAND: STATEMENT BY MR. ANDRZEJ WOJOIK, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
AT THE MEETING OF THE GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL,
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The Polish delegation participates in the Uruguay Round fully aware of the fact that this session is of crucial importance to us all.

We strongly believe, despite the still existing differences, that our debate will ultimately lead to a consensus on the launching of a New Round of multilateral trade negotiations. We seek an open and comprehensive Round involving all countries ready to contribute to solving the critical issues of today. Our delegation believes therefore that, as in the past, the new trade Round should be open to any country which expresses its determination to take active part in it and to fulfil all resulting obligations.

The period of stagnation of the world economy may be succeeded by a slight economic upturn. But this long-sought recovery is far from being secure. It is being delayed and weakened by growing protectionism and by restrictive and discriminatory measures.

The trading rules set under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade undergo erosion, are ignored and violated. All this causes problems for many countries and real hardship for those with a heavy debt burden.

We, in Poland, have particular reasons to be concerned, because Poland has been directly affected by measures which stand in contradiction with the fundamental aims and principles of the General Agreement.

My country is determined to increase her share and involvement in world trade during the coming years.

In order to achieve this we have initiated a number of structural adjustments aimed at export-oriented restructuring of the Polish economy and a better access of firms, Polish and foreign, to the market.

Today, we have hundreds of Polish firms, government-owned, co-operative and private-licensed to conduct foreign trade, several hundred foreign-owned firms in the small business sector and, quite recently, we enacted a new law in Poland inviting the State-owned industries to enter into equity joint ventures with foreign partners. With increasing exposure of Poland to the world market we are deeply interested in the process of

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liberalization of international trade. This process must be accompanied by the strengthening of GATT as the executive power for the application of the General Agreement. It is true that we must face and address the issue of non-traditional areas, going beyond the trading of goods. It would be unrealistic not to see their growing importance in the present pattern of world trade.

We should do it, however, in such a way as not to divert our attention from such priority areas as trade in commodities which will remain, for long, the most important source of income for the majority of countries.

Let me stress in this context Poland's understanding of the problems of less-developed countries which should find appropriate recognition during the Uruguay Round. Trade in agricultural products is one of the areas in which Poland is particularly interested. Agriculture is an important sector of our economy and we are looking forward to a new, effective set of trading rules eliminating import restrictions and other barriers to market access and also bringing more transparency in the application of export subsidies. We also regard as a crucial task for the New Round to reach comprehensive agreement, based on the MFN principle, on the use of all types of safeguard measures. They are the crux of the whole trading system and the excessive application of those measures has caused a lot of hardship for many trading nations.

I should like also to stress the urgent need to strengthen dispute settlement procedures under the General Agreement to better ensure prompt and conclusive resolution of all disputes. We consider this as one of the fundamental factors to secure the implementation of the results of our negotiations.

Finally, we regard as an important factor for the improvement of the GATT system, its closer co-operation with other international organizations responsible for monetary and financial matters.

I subscribe without hesitation to the view expressed here several times that the task ahead of us is of historic dimensions. All contracting parties share the responsibility of carrying it through in such a way as to ensure a more free, efficient and equitable trading system for the coming decades.

The Polish Government is prepared to undertake all necessary commitments to work towards that end.