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Despite the increase in total world trade, the developing countries' share of the market continues to decline. This phenomenon is to a great extent due to the growing number of trade restrictive and distortive measures being taken by the major countries, which often violate existing GATT rules and which are particularly detrimental to the interests of developing countries.

To overcome this situation, it is necessary to make a genuine effort to ensure mutual benefits for all participants in accordance with the principles of the GATT, including that of differential and more favourable treatment as embodied in Part IV, and those provisions regarding the participation of the developed countries as mentioned in GATT's principal governing regulations.

I would, therefore, like to reiterate the importance of full application of the special and differential treatment for all developing countries. Indonesia, on behalf of the ASEAN countries, believes that urgent steps are indeed necessary in order to prevent a further weakening of the multilateral trading system, which has become, to the detriment of developing nations, less efficient and equitable. Such deterioration has had serious ramifications for less-developed countries which are, in turn, dependent on the expansion of trade for their own development.

The failure of the developed countries to maintain a steady rate of growth, coupled with restrictive practices, which often violate the existing GATT rules, cannot fail to discriminate against developing countries, including those which are members of ASEAN, and while trade in the manufacturing sector showed an increase, the price of commodities in general remains uncertain, ensuring further cause for concern. It is for these reasons that we would urge at this first session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES after the launching of the Uruguay Round, that the coming negotiations should be guided by the principle of special and differential treatment and that each contracting party should do its utmost to liberalize trade and hence ensure greater market access for the developing nations. Only in this way will mutual advantages for both developed and developing countries be possible.

It is clear that, to date, the principle of special and more favourable treatment together with the Enabling Clause have not been fully implemented. Such unfortunate treatment by some developed countries of their less-developed counterparts is, indeed, inconsistent with GATT policy. Thus, the ASEAN delegations would urge that the need to eliminate

protectionism and a resolve to consider the main interests of developing countries such as agriculture, tropical products, textiles and clothing, and the existence of the so-called "grey areas", should be the cornerstones of the coming negotiations within the framework of the Uruguay Round.

In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity to urge that we tackle the many difficult problems before us with a new resolve, on the basis of the 1986 Ministerial Declaration as an expression of political commitment. A strong, open and viable multilateral trading system has advantages for both developed and developing nations alike, if a more equitable participation of that very system can be ensured.