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TANZANIA

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Minister-Plenipotentiary

As we take stock of the happenings 1991 both in the field of international trade and in the context in which it was conducted, we find ourselves greatly perplexed at the constant refrain of a fast changing world. Fast for whom? Change for whom? Whose world?

After thirty years of political independence, we have learnt one thing beyond doubt. It is that it is dangerous to have illusions.

At Punta del Este, the participants participated in a collective exercise of pious hopes and they dared to insist that there was an inter-relationship between between the world's trading system and the international monetary and financial system which enveloped and penetrated it at the same time.

Over the past five years very little has been achieved in the course of negotiations even in analysing this inter-relationship, let alone doing anything about it. Unless of course, what can only be described as a mechanical juxtaposition of the new GATT, the GATS-to-be, the IMF, and the World Bank are seen as promising the much heralded coherence, not to speak of real reform. We seem to excel ourselves in nursing and nourishing the illusion that we are dealing with different forces holding power of political decision, when we identify these fora separately, and expect them to function exclusively within their given mandates by the same contribution of political forces.

At the risk of being alone, my delegation wishes to place on record that, even without the overwhelming recent realisation of the facts of global physical environment increasingly being seen as a function of international modes of industrial production propelling international trade, the inequality in negotiating terms of foreign investment will continue to fester accumulated poverty and frustration.

While all participants clearly continue to hope that a balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round will be reached, this delegation has little illusion that a paper balance will turn itself into a dynamic reality working its way steadily and surely towards building up a balanced international framework of trade-exchange, fully underpinned by a parallel concerted attack on the elements we have mentioned. The rule-based

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relationship encompassing even more complex issues and interests will be seen as no more than a more sophisticated way of maintaining the status quo, unless concern for development is placed at the heart of it.

We of course look forward to the day when we can celebrate the unmistakable evidence of the reversal of global process in the direction of redressing the prevailing gross imbalance, in other words celebrate our own demise of pessimism.

Within our own national and regional settings, we shall of course strive to the utmost to fight the sense of overwhelming odds surrounding us. We shall not relent, not because we have no choice, but because it is the correct thing to do. And we will be the last to place any obstacle in the way of a balanced and just integration of the global economy, through the functioning of a seriously improved multilateral trading system.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to raise two matters of importance. One, we sincerely hope that the issue of debt outstanding in the form of arrears accumulated during a period of mostly negative growth and based on assessments which did not at all reflect the reality of share in the world's manufacturing trade, will now be settled once and for all, thus enabling grossly under-developed contracting parties to concentrate on internal stabilization and sustained growth of their economy.

Two, yet again we express a devout hope - indeed an urgent appeal - that the Working Party on China's resumption of her membership of the GATT should now expeditiously conclude its work. We believe it is not in the interest of a global multilateral system to keep such a vast country of over 1 billion human beings outside a global multilateral international trade framework whatever may be the short-term interests seen to be served by delay; we only see serious long-term harm to all who are striving to construct an equitable and balanced global trading system. As part of such a system, China will, we feel persuaded, continue to make the necessary adjustments to changing conditions, very much as most, if not all, members of the GATT are presently engaged in doing. We very much hope new impetus will be given to the process aimed at an early decision before the next annual gathering of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, to enable China to take her rightful place.