

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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COMMUNICATION FROM EGYPT

The Director-General has received the following communication, dated 2 December 1986, from the delegation of Egypt with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Goods.

The Rôle of the GNG in the Process of Negotiations

1. Section "G" of Part I of the Ministerial Declaration establishes a Group of Negotiations on Goods, and it recognizes the rôle of this group in a clear mandate namely:

"To carry out the programme of negotiations contained in this part of the Declaration" (Part I)

In carrying out this programme of negotiations the mandate contained in the Ministerial Declaration specifies, inter alia, the following duties for the GNG:

- "Elaborate and put into effect detailed trade negotiating plans prior to 19 December 1986"
- "Establish negotiating groups as required"
- "Decide upon the inclusion of additional subject matters in the negotiations"
- "Co-ordinate the work of the negotiating groups and supervise the progress of the negotiations".
- "In order to ensure the effective application of differential and more favourable treatment the GNG shall, before the formal completion of the negotiations, conduct an evaluation of the results attained therein in terms of the Objectives and the General Principles Governing Negotiations as set out in the Declaration, taking into account all issues of interest to less-developed contracting parties".

2. It is understood that the GNG is expected to carry out the programme of negotiations through the negotiating groups which it is mandated to establish. However, in order to comply fully with its mandate, and to carry out the duties entrusted to it by the Ministerial Declaration, the GNG will need to give adequate emphasis to its own rôle as the central focal point of co-ordination and supervision in the process of negotiations.

3. In the light of the above considerations, the work programme of the GNG should contain the following elements:

- (a) The GNG will meet at least once every three months and additionally as deemed necessary by the Chairman to carry out its functions under Section G of the Ministerial Declaration.
- (b) At its regular meetings the GNG will receive progress reports from each negotiating group. These reports will be designed to facilitate the task of the GNG in coordinating the work of the negotiating groups, and supervising the progress of the negotiations. It should also be noted that these reports will constitute a vital element in the fulfilment of the GNG's mandate to report to the TNC.
- (c) The GNG shall consider, if the need arises, any further elaboration that might be needed to any of the detailed negotiating plans.
- (d) During the course of the negotiations the GNG shall conduct, as necessary, reviews and evaluations with regard to the application of differential and more favourable treatment of less-developed contracting parties, with a view to ensuring the effective application of this principle in the light of the objectives and the general principles governing negotiations as set out in the Ministerial Declaration. Such work by the GNG will facilitate the fulfilment of its mandate to conduct, before the formal completion of the negotiations, an evaluation of the results attained therein.

4. It is understood that in addition to the responsibilities of the GNG specified in paragraph 3 above, the GNG will also undertake any task which may be assigned to it in relation to the surveillance of standstill and rollback commitments contained in Section C of the Ministerial Declaration.