

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNS/6

6 February 1987

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Services

MEETING OF 19 AND 20 DECEMBER 1986,
22 AND 28 JANUARY 1987

1. The Group of Negotiations on Services held its fifth meeting under the Chairmanship of Ambassador F. Jaramillo (Colombia), on 19 and 20 December 1986 and on 22 and 28 January 1987.
2. On 19 and 20 December 1986, the Chairman informed the Group that he was holding informal consultations on a programme for the initial phase of the negotiations, and that he would report on these consultations at a later stage.
3. On 22 January 1987, the Chairman reported on the work carried out in the informal consultations. He noted that by the end of 1986, some progress had been made in formulating the elements which should be addressed in 1987, but there were still problems regarding the question of coverage of the proposed framework, especially the reference or absence of reference to sectors, and the possible formulation of an element relating to what had variously been referred to as perceived effects, perceived barriers, trade inhibiting practices, constraints on the expansion of trade, etc. One point on which a consensus appeared to have been reached was that the initial phase of negotiations should begin with a general debate structured around the various elements identified, and that provision should be made for a periodic overview of progress and for a stock-taking at the end of 1987. While there seemed to be agreement on the operating mode during the first phase of negotiations, namely the proposal to deal with the various elements in revolving fashion at each scheduled meeting, the schedule of meetings itself remained to be agreed.
4. On 28 January 1987, following further informal consultations on the draft programme, the Chairman submitted a document, (MTN.GNS/5) containing the results of these consultations. He said that this text was the result of considerable efforts to reach a compromise made by all delegations. For his part, he had endeavoured to ensure that all the views which had been expressed during the discussions were reflected in the text. It was his feeling that either explicitly or implicitly, the elements contained in the text did take all the main ideas presented in a balanced and neutral manner and that as such they constituted a good basis on which to start. He believed that, as pointed out by one delegation, it was the understanding of all participants that the objectives of growth and development mentioned in Part II of the Ministerial Declaration would permeate through all the elements to be addressed. The text was adopted.

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5. The Group agreed to circulate the text as an official document and to forward it to the Trade Negotiations Committee as the Chairman's report on the work carried out so far under the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este.

6. The Chairman then stated that, although the question had not been discussed so far in the Group, some suggestions had been made in informal consultations concerning the handling of records of the Group's discussions. In the light of these, he proposed that the records should allow a fairly precise rendering of delegations' interventions, without identifying the delegations which had spoken. It was so agreed.

7. The Chairman recalled that the Group had had some exchanges of views on the question of technical support. As he felt that many delegations might not be prepared to take a decision at this stage, he proposed that the matter should be addressed at an early stage in the initial phase of negotiations. It was so agreed.

8. Concerning the related question of observers, the Chairman recalled that the Group had so far received requests for observer status from six international and regional organizations: UNCTAD, IMF, World Bank, United Nations including UNCTC, SELA, Commonwealth Secretariat. Since the point had been made by many delegations that the question of observers was linked to that of technical support, he proposed to deal with these two issues jointly. One delegation proposed that the two issues should be dealt with in an interrelated manner but not jointly, since these were not necessarily the same. It was so agreed.

9. The next meeting of the Group was scheduled for 23-25 February 1987.