

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

SUBMISSION BY ASEAN COUNTRIES

The following statement was made by the ASEAN delegations at the third meeting of the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products on 3 July 1987 with the request that it be circulated to members of the Group.

At the second meeting of the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products (11 May 1987), the ASEAN delegations reiterated that the ASEAN harmonization proposal was still on the table. It still is and we are now circulating it as a written proposal, albeit with a further expansion to cover non-tariff measures as well.

To recap the original proposal, ASEAN seeks the alignment of tariffs on tropical products in the developed contracting parties to the lowest level prevailing among them. As to the question of non-tariff measures, we seek non-tariff measures-free treatment. This proposal is in line with the Ministerial Declaration on tropical products which states that there shall be the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products including in their processed and semi-processed forms and shall cover both tariff and non-tariff measures. We have heard time and again from the developed contracting parties that they are all committed to provide special attention to this issue, both in its implementation and timing and we are requesting the developed contracting parties to translate that political commitment into concrete action.

Positive movement in this negotiating group will go a long way into bringing about the much-needed confidence necessary to ensure the eventual success of the Uruguay Round. It is extremely vital for the developing countries to gain that confidence and allay the fears once and for all that there is nothing in store for them in this Round. Now it is the time to prove to us that such fears are unfounded and the only way to do it is to take that concrete action.

We had suggested, at the last meeting, of a possible way to work on the proposal. There had been some misunderstanding on what we said then and so we wish to repeat the suggestion:

- First, participants will submit to the secretariat a list of specific tropical products of export interest to them. (The submission by participants of such lists should not be construed to be the traditional request lists).
- Second, the lists can then be compiled by the secretariat and the products therein be classified according to the seven product groups.
- Third, the secretariat can then provide the updated data on tariffs and non-tariff measures applied to these products.
- Fourth, once the complete data is available, the Negotiating Group will examine on a product-by-product basis, the height, spread and concentration of tariff rates applied to these products. Developed contracting parties will then lower their tariffs to the lowest tariff prevailing amongst them and at the same time to completely remove all the NTMs being applied to the products in question.

In line with our suggestion, ASEAN is also making available a tentative, first list of specific tropical products of export interest to ASEAN. Since this is a tentative list, we reserve our right to revise it further.

ASEAN Harmonization Proposal

In line with the Ministerial Declaration to have the fullest liberalization of tariffs, and non-tariff measures on tropical products, ASEAN proposes the following negotiating modalities:

Tariffs

ASEAN seeks the alignment of tariffs on tropical products to the lowest prevailing tariffs among the developed contracting parties.

Non-Tariff Measures

ASEAN requests non-tariff measures-free treatment on tropical products in the developed contracting parties.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO ASEAN

Cut flowers

Cut natural orchids

Vegetables and fruits

- Bananas, fresh, chilled or dried
- Bananas crackers (fried banana with sugar)
- Coconuts, not in shell
- Coconut meat, excluding copra, fresh or frozen, not over 10 % sugar added
- Coconut meat shredded and desicated or similarly prepared
- Desicated coconuts
- Mangoes, fresh or dried
- Pineapples, fresh

Pepper, ground or unground

Pineapple juice

Tapioca flour

Tapioca starch

Seed lacs

Palm oil, crude or processed, edible or inedible

Palm kernel oil, crude or processed, edible or inedible

Crude coconut oil for industrial use

Crude coconut oil for foodstuff

Coconut oil, refined

Castor oil

Palm fatty acid

Coconut acid oils and fatty acids, nes.

Fatty alcohols

Glycerol, glycerin crude

Cocoa beans

Cocoa paste

Cocoa butter

Cocoa powder

Rice

Seaweeds, crude, ground or pulverized, nspf.

Canned pineapples

Tropical fruits and nuts

Mixed fruits in airtight containers not containing apricots, citrus
fruits, peaches and pears

Oil cake and residues of copra

Tobacco leaf

Coconut shell charcoal, not agglomerated

Lumber, Philippine mahogany or lauan, tangile rough dressed or worked
excluding siding, molding and hardwood flooring.

Lauan, non-coniferous wood sawn, lengthwise, sliced or peeled of a
thickness exceeding 5mm.

- lumber, of lauan, planed, tongued, grooved, rebated,
chamfered, jointed, center jointed, etc. but not further
manufactured.

Sawn timber

- wood, sawn, sliced, peeled, exceeeding 5mm. Philippine
mahognay, nes. or non-coniferous

Veneer

- rotary veneer wood exceeding 1 mm but not exceeding 5 mm.

Plywood

Mouldings

Mahogany household utensils and parts. nspf.

Baskets and bags of rattan or of palm leaf

Buri raffi placemats

Articles, nspf of abaca fibres

Veneers, not reinforced or backed, of Philippine mahogany or lauan

Plywood, nspf, with a face fly of softwood, not face finished or clear
face finished

Cordage, twine, cable rope of fibres, nes.

Abaca fibres, unmanufactured

Abaca fibres, raw, waste and advance waste

Jute yarn

Fabrics

Twine cordage, ropes

Cordage, cables, ropes and twines, of abaca

Gunny bag

Yarn of Manila hemp (abaca)

Furniture and parts thereof, of rattan

Furniture and parts thereof, of buri

Furniture and parts of unspun fibrous vegetable materials, nspf

Chairs, lounges, settees of wicker, bamboo, cane (except those with
wooden frames)

Wicker, bamboo or cane tables, domestic

Wicker, bamboo or cane planters, baskets, pot holders and the like,
domestic

Wicker, bamboo or cane furniture, being assembled, partly assembled or
unassembled domestic