

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
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JAPAN

Statement by Mr. Sousuke Uno, Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Ministerial meeting.

I also express our deep respect and gratitude to the Government of Canada for hosting this meeting. At the same time, I thank our Director-General Arthur Dunkel and the GATT secretariat for their work.

The Uruguay Round, I am convinced, has three important goals:

First, to establish GATT as a régime that looks toward the future, into the twenty-first century. More specifically, through co-ordinated efforts by developed and developing countries, to shape a new trading system seeking to establish rules on intellectual property, to expand trade in services and to cope with trade-related problems of investment. In this way we can promote further the recent dynamic structural changes in the world economy and thus contribute to the vitalization of the world economy itself.

Second, to invigorate the GATT system. Recognizing that the present GATT system is not perfect, we must reform and empower it so as to enable it to resist protectionism in its various contemporary guises, such as unilateralism, bilateralism, reciprocity-biased attitudes and inward-looking regionalism. Only through such reform can we realize a stronger GATT which adheres to and defends the multilateral free-trading system.

Third, to establish a GATT system that will bring prosperity within reach of all its members. Further trade liberalization, to be achieved through the Uruguay Round, will facilitate structural adjustment and strengthen the economies of the developed and developing countries alike, contributing to the vitalization of the entire global economy.

The Mid-Term Review is a significant milestone for the Uruguay Round. In preparing for this meeting, all fifteen negotiating areas were subject to thorough review, and the key issues for each area were articulated and identified. This in itself is an important achievement of the Mid-Term Review. Our task, as Ministers, is to build further upon the achievements already made.

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From this perspective, Japan attaches particular importance to accomplishing concrete results that can be implemented from next year in the field of tropical products, and we have subsequently made an offer that includes bananas, vegetable oils and jute products. I heartily welcome the package on tropical products just agreed upon by the participating countries last night. I also deem it important to achieve early results in dispute settlement and the functioning of the GATT system at the Mid-Term Review.

In the so-called new areas of intellectual property, services and investment, we urge all participants to agree, in the spirit of co-operation, upon a framework for negotiations for the latter half of the Round, recognizing that formulation of a new multilateral régime will benefit every member, including the developing countries.

In the field of agriculture, let us take a realistic approach, extending due consideration to the interests of both exporting and importing countries, in working toward the goals enunciated in the Punta del Este Declaration. I underline here that, as the world's largest and most stable net importer of agricultural products, Japan has a crucial interest in food security.

In other areas also, let us set guidelines for a framework and work schedule for the latter half of the Round. Let us also affirm our political determination to realize these guidelines.

I wish to stress that the important thing is not so much our achievements at the halfway mark, but the final result at the goal line. We must exert all our energy in the remainder of the Round, as we did in the first half.

I urge the Ministers from all participating countries to renew, at this Ministerial meeting, their determination on the following three points, as a manifestation of their firm commitment to the success of the Uruguay Round and to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system:

first, to prevent protectionism; in particular,

- to resist the temptation of resorting to GATT inconsistent unilateral measures;
- to resist the temptation of reinforcing economic block-proned regionalism; and
- to resist the temptation of leaning towards bilateralism and reciprocity-biased attitudes which violate the principle of non-discrimination;

second, by taking a realistic and co-operative approach, to facilitate the negotiations in the latter half of the Round, thereby enabling us to attain our goals agreed upon at the outset of the Round.

third, while no country can afford to be a bystander in any negotiating area and while giving appropriate consideration to the development stage of the developing countries, to bring about a successful negotiation by having every country contribute in a commensurate manner.

This Ministerial meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee will accomplish results worthy of our Mid-Term Review, when all of us, the Ministers gathered here, affirm our determination and show again true statesmanship as shown at Punta del Este two years ago.

In closing, let me state that, in line with our fundamental national policy of a "Japan contributing to the world", Japan will wish to contribute to play a positive rôle in ensuring the success of the Uruguay Round.