

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
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YUGOSLAVIA

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May I first of all express my warm gratitude to the Government of Canada for their hospitality and the excellent organisation ensuring the necessary conditions for holding this meeting.

The mid-term review of the Uruguay Round my country regards as an opportunity to jointly assess the current development of negotiations and to agree how to channel them onward in order to fulfil the goals agreed upon in Punta del Este.

We believe that there are in the international trading system and international trade relations many reasons which justify the efforts of participating governments. Despite the growth of international trade and the world economy as a whole, a large number of developing countries, particularly those highly indebted and least developed, do not share the benefits of such development. The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, H.E. Brian Mulroney, has correctly indicated that if we want to trade the way out of debt of developing countries, we must enhance the trade prospects of developing countries. In conditions such as these we cannot but place in first line the need that these negotiations flow in parallel with the corresponding actions in other inter-related areas, particularly in the field of money and finance.

For us the Uruguay Round will bring success if it manages to restore the eroded international trading system by opening perspectives for faster and sustained growth of all countries and the development of developing countries. Protectionism, trade distortive measures, bilateralism and unilateralism should be replaced by substantially liberalized trade relations which evolve under the enhanced GATT rules and disciplines. Strict fulfilment of the standstill and rollback commitments would contribute to these objectives. The most important element for the success of the Uruguay Round would be an effort that the negotiations respond in a balanced manner to the interests of all partners.

Negotiations should not be accelerated in some negotiating groups, particularly in the new areas, while at the same time there is a lack of political will for substantial negotiations on some long outstanding issues that weaken GATT in its traditional field of activities.

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In order that the on-going negotiations lead to a fulfilment of the accepted goals, it is indispensable to assure the effective application of the differential and more favourable treatment of the developing countries in all areas of negotiations, which is not only an integral part of the GATT system, but also incorporated in the general principles governing the negotiations.

We are ready to contribute to the results of these negotiations consistently with our development, financial and trade needs. We hope that the unilateral trade liberalization measures undertaken during the Uruguay Round will be given appropriate credit.

From the point of view of my country, this meeting will represent a success if Ministers:

- give new impulses in order to ensure the fulfilment of standstill and rollback commitments;
- set guidelines in order to facilitate and accelerate progress in the negotiations which will lead to a strengthening of a non-discriminatory multilateral trading system through the acceptance of a comprehensive agreement on safeguards;
- agree on substantive steps concerning the modalities of integration of trade in textiles and clothing into the GATT;
- in agriculture to establish a framework for long-term and short-term measures leading to the achievement of the objectives from the Punta del Este Declaration. In this context we give priority to the importance of agriculture for the economic development of developing countries and their differential and more favourable treatment.

The fact that for trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights there exist four different approaches, indicates the difficulties encountered in these negotiations. These difficulties could be overcome if the mandate is respected and the balance established in Punta del Este preserved.

We expect that substantial improvement of the functioning of the GATT system will arise from the negotiations as a whole. One step has been made through the proposal of the negotiating group submitted to this meeting.

Although substantial progress has been made in clarifying complex problems relating to trade in services, it remains to simultaneously examine all aspects and elements relevant to achievement of the main objective of promoting growth and development through the expansion of trade in services of all countries. In this regard many issues are yet to be clarified and solved by the end of the Uruguay Round.

We attach full significance to transparency and decision making by consensus.

We believe that this meeting will give results to the extent in which all participants express a sense of reality not only for their own, but for the problems of others as well and to the extent that solutions are sought on a balanced and equitable basis. This is the basic guideline for my country's approach to this meeting and it is the point from which we are prepared to give our full contribution.