

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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EL SALVADOR

Statement by H.E. Mr. Guillermo Aceto Marini
Ambassador-Negotiator to GATT, Ministry of Foreign Trade

On behalf of the Government of El Salvador, I wish to congratulate the Chairman on his appointment and wish him every success in performing so delicate a task.

I should also like to express our sincere and cordial thanks to the Government of Canada, the authorities of the province of Quebec and of this gracious city of Montreal for their generous hospitality and congratulate them on the excellent organization of this Ministerial meeting, which future hosts will have difficulty in surpassing.

We should also like to express our thanks to the secretariat of GATT for its excellent contribution to this event.

The Government of the Republic of El Salvador took the decision to accede to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by reason of the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration, so as to be able to participate in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations of the Uruguay Round.

From then on, we have been showing the contracting parties our firm resolve to work actively in the negotiations.

After analysing the principles underlying, the Agreement we consider that it constitutes an essential step towards an economic development model incorporating the expansion of exports.

These principles are embodied in the provisions of Part IV of the Agreement, concerning differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries and non-reciprocity of concessions granted by the developed countries, and they were reiterated in the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration when the launching of the Uruguay Round was approved.

For that reason, being convinced that it is necessary for us to become a member of GATT, last week we made a request for our application for provisional accession to be replaced by an application for definitive accession under Article XXXIII of the General Agreement.

We are entering GATT in the hope that differential and more favourable treatment offers a possibility for development. However, I cannot say that our experience in this short period of participation has been very encouraging. Our participation has virtually been confined to the Group on Tropical Products as these account for 70 per cent of our exports. For an auspicious start in GATT, we needed to obtain concessions "at an early stage", to cite the Ministerial Declaration that launched the Round. However, as we are all aware, and has been stated here quite clearly, the results obtained so far in the area of these products are meagre.

Progress in the other areas of the negotiation has also failed to bring much satisfaction. Ministers will therefore have the task of steering negotiations towards positive results in the next two years.

El Salvador wishes to place on record as its only recommendation that at no time can the principles underlying the Uruguay Round be changed and any resolution must therefore respect the objectives set forth clearly in the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration concerning each and every one of the subjects for negotiation mentioned therein.

We feel compelled to express some disappointment at what has been achieved so far, perhaps because our expectations from these negotiations were too high, but this does not mean that we are abandoning the cause. We still have two years in which to strive toward objective realities of liberalization.

We shall spare no effort to show to the developed countries, in the next two years, that the principle of trade liberalization cannot imply full reciprocity but, rather, observance and application of the widely evoked principle of differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries.

El Salvador joins all those developing countries which, from this rostrum, have appealed to the developed countries for understanding regarding the imperative need for differential and more favourable treatment in international trade in goods.

We are aware that, in these negotiations, economic interests prevail over all other considerations. There is no place for politics or sentiment. But it is precisely because the problem is an economic one that the developed countries are duty bound to do something to increase the purchasing power of their principal consumers. By limiting access for their products, through tariff and non-tariff measures, they drive them to commercial starvation and preclude any possibility of expanding that purchasing power.

Finally, if the doors are not opened to developing countries so that they can raise the standard of living of their peoples (a basic objective of the GATT) they will go from poverty to destitution and whereas poverty

can be borne with dignity, destitution is a sign of moral degradation, of violation of the human right to subsistence and synonymous with violence and social and political disruptions which, if they become general, can have unforeseeable consequences.

We are aware that the task is not an easy one. El Salvador is resolved to join battle against under-development together with other countries that have similar problems. The fight will be hard and the path undoubtedly thorny, but as the illustrious poet Ezequiel Martinez Estrada said: "Triumph and glory almost always follow the cross and hemlock".