

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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ZIMBABWE

Statement by Dr. O.M. Munyaradzi,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

On behalf of the delegation of Zimbabwe I wish to extend to you our sincerest congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of this important Ministerial meeting.

Like previous speakers, let me also take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude at the warm and generous hospitality extended to our delegation by the Government and people of Canada.

Zimbabwe derives great satisfaction from its relationship with Canada and we are most appreciative of Canada's support in our efforts and those of other developing countries to combat underdevelopment.

It is Zimbabwe's desire and indeed the desire of everybody who has spoken before me that the Ministerial Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round work out sound political guidelines that are satisfactory to everybody and which will give the necessary impetus to the second phase of the negotiations. Ministers should take a stance at this Montreal meeting that will direct our negotiators to look positively at the principles governing the negotiations as spelled out in the Punta del Este Declaration and successfully conclude the Uruguay Round to the mutual benefit of every participant.

As far as my country is concerned, the objectives and principles of the Punta del Este Declaration in particular Part B(IV) on differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries is of paramount importance, it enables developing countries to take measures consistent with their developmental needs for the betterment of the welfare of their people. I therefore suggest that this principle be recognized in all areas under negotiation.

My delegation fully appreciates the complexity of the issues under negotiation, however, two years after the launching of the present Round of multilateral trade negotiations we would have expected much more

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progress in the negotiations on liberalization in agriculture. Agriculture is an important sector in the economies of many developing countries. The adoption of measures under this Round that would allow for competition in this area would enhance economic growth of a good number of developing countries.

While we expect improved trading conditions and better market access after the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, my country and many other developing countries note with concern that the outcome would have a bearing on the advantages and benefits we were enjoying under economic co-operation arrangements with some developed countries. I have in mind offers that have been made on tropical products to date.

A large number of developing countries, which are contracting parties of the GATT, and signatories to the Lomé Convention, have a very strong reservation on an important part of the proposed package of offers on tropical products that has been submitted here in Montreal. Our reservation rests very simply on the fact that the package contains a significant reduction of advantages to us.

Nevertheless, in the interest of making progress in these negotiations, to which we are committed, we have decided that we will not press our reservation here.

We wish to make it clear, however, that in these negotiations and in separate negotiations with our major trading partners we expect the fact of this resulting reduction of advantage to be recognized by them and taken fully into account.

In other areas under negotiation such as tariffs, non-tariff barriers and subsidies again due cognizance should be given to the fact that to a large extent these measures are an integral part of economic development programmes of developing countries. With regard to subsidies, an approach that takes into account the crucial rôle they play in pursuing broader economic objectives of developing countries is desirable.

The emphasis I am placing on the recognition of the need for differential treatment of developing countries should not be misunderstood to mean that we expect to give nothing. We all know we have to give something in the spirit of compromise. However, the point I am making is that the Uruguay Round is being held when the economies of many developing countries are in pretty bad shape, with no sign of meaningful improvement in the foreseeable future. The future is uncertain because of such factors as deteriorating terms of trade, the heavy debt burden and the decline in resource flows from developed countries.

In conclusion I would wish to express my country's commitment to multilateralism in trade. I therefore associate myself with the objectives of strengthening GATT rules and improvement of the functioning of GATT to the mutual benefit of contracting parties.