

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.TNC/W/15  
8 December 1988

Special Distribution

Original: English

Trade Negotiations Committee

DECLARATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTRACTING  
PARTIES TO THE GATT AND SIGNATORIES TO THE LOME CONVENTION

A large number of developing countries, contracting parties of the GATT, and Signatories to the Lome Convention, participating in this meeting have a very strong reservation on an important part of the proposed package of offers on Tropical Products submitted here in Montreal. Our reservation rests on the fact that the package contains a significant reduction of the advantages enjoyed by us as part of a contractual agreement.

The suggestion that other aspects of the package constitute appropriate offsetting benefits has no foundation. In fact, we consider that the EEC's offer constitutes a major contribution by our countries, the large majority of which are among the category of the least developed. In keeping with the Ministerial Declaration of the Uruguay Round this is the very group of countries which are not required to make contributions which are not consistent with their development, finance and trade needs.

Nevertheless, in the interest of seeing progress in these multilateral trade negotiations to which we are all committed this reservation will not be pressed at this stage.

We wish to make it clear, however, that in these negotiations we expect this resulting reduction of benefits to be recognized and concrete measures implemented to provide equivalent advantages.

Equally, in separate negotiations with our major trading partners, we would be similarly insistent. We would particularly expect the obligation to our states under the Lome Convention and the special undertakings on certain products contained in the Convention to be honoured.

We wish this statement to be reflected in the records of this meeting and, as appropriate, in the results.