

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

PROPOSAL BY COLOMBIA

The following proposal received from the delegation of Colombia is circulated to the members of the Group.

1. At the mid-term meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, Ministers took note of the results obtained thus far in negotiations on tropical products. They also considered that those results would form an integral part of the overall achievement of the Uruguay Round.

2. As the results obtained at the mid-term meeting do not meet the objectives of the Punta del Este Declaration of achieving "the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms", Ministers agreed to pursue negotiations on the seven product groups already identified, with due regard to the following elements:

- "(a) Elimination of duties on unprocessed products.
- (b) Elimination or substantial reduction of duties on semi-processed and processed products. These actions would include the objective of eliminating or reducing tariff escalation.
- (c) Elimination or reduction of all non-tariff measures affecting trade in these products."

3. It was also agreed that all participants would engage in the negotiations and make appropriate contributions towards achieving the objective of the Punta del Este Declaration, including those contained in its Part I.B.

4. In view of the foregoing, and bearing in mind that in Part G, "Organization of the Negotiations", the Punta del Este Declaration states that: "In order to ensure effective application of differential and more favourable treatment the GNG shall, before the formal completion of the negotiations, conduct an evaluation of the results attained therein in terms of the Objectives and the General Principles Governing Negotiations

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as set out in the Declaration, taking into account all issues of interest to less-developed contracting parties", the agreement reached at the mid-term review must be implemented as rapidly as possible.

5. It is necessary, therefore, for the negotiating process in the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products to begin again as soon as possible in order to obtain concrete results sufficiently in advance of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations so that, with these results as a basis, the developing countries which are exporters of tropical products can justify their contributions to and participation in the results of other Negotiating Groups.

6. To that end, the delegation of Colombia proposes the following to the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products:

(1) As from 1 January 1991, the developed contracting parties shall:

- (a) Eliminate all duties on unprocessed products.
- (b) Eliminate or substantially reduce duties on semi-processed and processed products.
- (c) Eliminate or reduce all non-tariff measures affecting trade in tropical products.

Negotiations to determine how to apply sub-paragraphs 6(1)(b) and 6(1)(c) above shall begin at the first meeting of the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products after the 1989 summer recess and should be completed by 30 April 1990.

(2) The contribution made by developing contracting parties shall be based on the General Principles Governing Negotiations, especially those contained in Section B, paragraphs (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) in accordance with the following elements:

- (a) Additional contributions they may make in the framework of the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products (NG6).
- (b) Their contributions in the negotiations in other groups on market access in particular tariffs (NG1) and non-tariff measures (NG2).

7. The final implementation of results obtained in the negotiations prescribed in paragraph 6(1) will depend on the overall results of the Uruguay Round, particularly those mentioned in paragraph 2 of this proposal.