

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

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Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries

Statement by Ambassador H.S. Kartadjoemena
on Behalf of ASEAN Countries

On behalf of the ASEAN delegations, I would like to take this opportunity to speak on the question of special and differential treatment for developing countries in the field of agriculture. May I first of all convey to this meeting that delegations of ASEAN countries are, at present, actively working with other members of the Cairns Group, to develop a concrete and balanced approach to S & D. In this connection, we would like to express our appreciation to other delegations which, during this session of the meeting of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture, have stressed again the importance of S & D to developing countries.

Pending the completion of the formulation of a comprehensive, balanced and constructive approach to S & D, I would like to put forward some of the elements of the basic thinking which constitute the basis of our approach to the broader development question and the question of S & D.

First, I wish to stress that our approach centres on the view we hold about the primordial importance of agriculture to the development of developing countries. Accordingly, as developing countries, our first commitment in the field of agriculture is to ensure that all the necessary measures to develop effective long-term agricultural production capabilities be considered as an integral part of the development efforts of developing countries. This includes the capacity to develop long-term basic staple food production capabilities at competitive levels.

Secondly, within the context of our development efforts, special and differential treatment is an important means to achieve our development objective. In order to develop a more concrete and constructive proposal on S & D, ASEAN delegations are currently actively engaged, in co-operation with other Cairns Group countries, to formulate proposals on S & D which must include flexibility in the content and extent of reform commitments of developing countries and longer time-frames in the implementation of those

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commitments. May I also add that ASEAN delegations regard it as important that the effort to develop strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines also contains elements which support the development objectives of developing countries.

Finally, ASEAN countries are fully sympathetic with the effort of the net food-importing developing countries to deal with their serious problems. Accordingly, the third element of our effort to develop a comprehensive, balanced and constructive approach to meet the development needs of developing countries must also contain elements which would appropriately deal with the specific interest of net food-importing developing countries.