

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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STATEMENT BY THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

The following statement made by Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries at the meeting of the Negotiating Group on 19 October 1989 is circulated to the members of the Group.

1. Recalling the general objective agreed upon in the Punta del Este Declaration of achieving "the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms" the Nordic countries would like to stress the significance they attach to the results already obtained thus far in our negotiations.

2. In the further pursuit of our negotiating objective the Nordic countries think it is essential that as many participants as possible clarify how they think the objective could be achieved, and what they would do in order to achieve it.

3. For their part the Nordic countries have for a long time advocated a systematic approach also in the area of tariff reductions for tropical products. We still think that such an approach merits consideration, and we would reiterate the basic elements of this approach as we proposed them in April 1988:

- a formula for tariff reductions should contain an appropriate element of harmonization;

- discussions of the details of an appropriate harmonization formula should include the need for flexibility in its application;

- subsequent to the agreement on a formula, participants shall present their lists of products and tariff rates to be covered by this formula;

- a formula approach should include the broadest possible participation;

- all new concessions would be bound;

- maximum period of implementation should be five years;

- in addition to the submission of lists of products and tariff rates to be covered by a formula participants should consider submitting requests or offers for further reduction or

elimination of tariffs on specific tropical products or for tropical products not covered by the formula reductions.

4. Concerning non-tariff measures the Nordic countries repeat their readiness to include these measures to the extent that they have significant trade effects, and in the understanding that other participants are willing to do the same, based on a request/offer procedure.

In the present circumstances we believe that this aspect merits special attention, and we would welcome other participants' views on what they are prepared to do in the area of NTMs.

5. The Nordic countries would also point to the special situation of the LLDCs and the need to find ways and means to improve market access of products of export interest to LLDCs.

6. Regarding the lists of products and tariff rates to be submitted eventually, i.e. the appropriate contributions to be made towards achieving the objective of the "fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products", the Nordic countries are prepared to make such contributions, on the condition that other participants are willing to do the same. It will be recalled that the general market situation for tropical products in the Nordic countries is highly liberalized, with tariff rates in many areas already bound at 0 per cent.

For us to participate in a process with the objective of achieving "the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products" will thus only be meaningful if we have a truly multilateral process with the broadest possible participation.