

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)
Negotiating Group on Agriculture

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PROPOSALS ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Communication from Bangladesh

On 15 February 1988 the delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the least-developed countries submitted to the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries a communication on the Uruguay Round and the least-developed countries. This communication which contained preliminary proposals both of a general and specific nature for consideration by participants was transmitted to the negotiating groups through the Chairman of the Group of Negotiations on Goods (MTN.GNG/W/14/Rev.1). At the time the proposals were submitted, the delegation of Bangladesh reserved the right to add to and amend the preliminary proposals and address them to individual negotiating groups.

Accordingly, the following proposals are being submitted for the consideration of the negotiating group.

Since development of the least-developed countries is synonymous with their agricultural and rural development, reforms and new disciplines that have been or would be agreed upon in the Uruguay Round should allow for the right of the least-developed countries to provide protection, support and assistance, including assistance to export development, in the agricultural sector.

The least-developed countries which are net food importers may be adversely affected, at least in the short run, by the reform process in the agricultural sector. As such, these countries should be assisted to overcome any consequential erosion in their purchasing power of food through food aid, in the short run, and direct financial and technical assistance to their agricultural sector.

Special consideration for the least-developed countries including their needs for technical assistance within the framework of any agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations shall be given.