

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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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.

Accordingly, the following general proposals are addressed to all participants for their consideration; other more specific proposals have been addressed to individual negotiating groups.

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General proposals

- Concessions negotiated in the framework of the Uruguay Round shall be implemented on an advanced and accelerated basis in favour of the least-developed countries.
- Concessions for the least-developed countries shall be unconditional, and for such concessions no reciprocity whatsoever shall be expected of them.
- The least-developed countries shall be compensated appropriately for the continuing erosion in the margin of preference enjoyed by them under the GSP and other preferential régimes, due to the progressive elimination or reduction of tariffs on products of export interest to the least-developed countries.
- Contracting parties, while ensuring market access to the products of the least-developed countries, shall adopt complementary measures to broaden the production and export bases of the least-developed countries.

- Contracting parties shall ensure, through appropriate measures, that products which are prohibited to be sold in the exporting countries on the grounds that they are dangerous to health or for environmental reasons are not exported to the least-developed countries and that their markets are not used for experimentation to commercialize such products as well as similar products of new technology.
- Contracting parties should assume strong commitments to offer technical assistance to the least-developed countries on all aspects of their trade development. Increased technical assistance should be given to the LLDCs, inter alia, through the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/GATT.

GSP

- Tariffs on all products of export interest to the least-developed countries, whether industrial, artisanal, tropical, agricultural or natural resource-based products, shall be eliminated under stable, predictable and simplified long-term GSP schemes and/or under special dispensations for the least-developed countries, without any quotas or ceilings.
- Preference-giving countries are called upon to ensure that all the least-developed countries are included in their respective GSP schemes and that the least-developed countries are provided with necessary assistance to cope with administrative procedures in order to enable them to reap the benefits intended under the GSP schemes.
- Simplified rules and procedures, as well as flexible rules of origin shall be put in place for the benefit of the least-developed countries.
- Global cumulation among the least-developed countries to meet the content requirement of a national/regional system of tariff preferences on imports from the least-developed countries shall be allowed.
- Global cumulation in relation to outward processing done in the least-developed countries to meet the content requirement of a national/regional system of tariff preferences on imports from the least-developed countries shall be allowed.
- Those preference-giving countries which are yet to adopt special measures for the least-developed countries within their respective GSP schemes are called upon to do so.
- Least-developed countries shall be exempted from safeguard clauses and other conditionalities attached to GSP schemes.

- Practical measures shall be taken to promote a higher utilization rates of GSP treatment by the least-developed countries, for example:
  - establishment of direct trading links with the least-developed countries;
  - facilitating the participation of the least-developed countries in trade fairs, etc;
  - establishment of import promoting offices by donor countries.