

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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**COMMUNIQUE ON THE FIRST PART OF THE FIFTH
CONSULTATION MEETING OF SELA ON THE URUGUAY ROUND**

At the fifth Latin American Consultation Meeting of SELA on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the countries of the region agreed on the following communiqué:

1. We note with interest and concern the course of the Uruguay Round negotiations which have entered into their final stage. In keeping with the commitments and aims of the Declaration of Punta del Este and our presence in the negotiations it is incumbent upon us to participate actively in the decision-making process.
2. It is a matter of serious concern to us that the consultations and negotiations may be conducted in such a way as to exclude countries of the region that have vital interests in the areas of negotiation. The lack of transparency and participation will inevitably lead to unbalanced results which, as a consequence, will not be acceptable as a whole.
3. Consequently it is essential that the process should develop in a fully transparent manner, including the informal consultations, so that the interests of all concerned are considered and taken duly into account in the eventual agreements to ensure that these will represent the full expression of the will of all the participants.
4. In the intensive process that is under way to define negotiating profiles at the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee at the end of July, it is imperative that the rights and interests of all the developing countries be safeguarded. Consequently, the reports to be submitted by the chairpersons of the negotiating groups should set out the respective negotiating options in a clear and balanced fashion, and their presentation should be homogeneous so as to enable the overall profile of a final package to be assessed. The reports can only be an adequate basis for the negotiations to the extent that they equitably reflect the most representative positions of the participants and comply with the relevant mandates.

5. This process requires, in addition, a serious and responsible effort on the part of all participants, who shall indicate without delay, and in a comprehensive and transparent manner, their interests and positions in the different areas of negotiation. The contribution of the industrialized countries is particularly important in this respect.

6. We vigorously endorse the Statement by the Informal Group of Developing Countries at the Trade Negotiations Committee (MTN.TNC/W/19 of 9 April 1990), which, in paragraph 22, states: "The success of the Uruguay Round can not be achieved without a balanced result of rights and obligations. Developing countries will not bear responsibility for failure if current imbalances persist. For this reason the TNC meeting of next July is of paramount importance for, in the judgement of developing countries, the success of the Round is at stake".

7. In addition, it should be recalled that the last paragraph of Section G of the Punta del Este Declaration provides that: "In order to ensure effective application of differential and more favourable treatment the Group of Negotiations on Goods 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 as set out in the Declaration, taking into account all issues of interest to less-developed contracting parties".

8. We attach high priority and importance to the evaluation commitment. It is therefore essential to consider, without delay, the timing and form of the evaluation to be undertaken by the participants in the Uruguay Round. This will be a basic element in the decision on the acceptance of the final package. We urge all the other participants to associate themselves with our efforts in order to comply with the commitment contained in the last paragraph of Section G of the Punta del Este Declaration. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have consequently initiated a process of evaluation which will be permanently intensified and updated.