

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/W/184

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

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TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE: JULY 1990

Statements by Colombia

Statement made on 12 July 1990

With regard to the negotiations on market access for the seven tropical product groups identified in document MTN.GNG/NG6/W/1, the negotiations shall be governed in accordance with the objectives agreed upon in the Punta del Este Declaration and the principles included in the Montreal Mid-Term Decision on Tropical Products.

Statement made on 20 July 1990

I do not wish to disturb the atmosphere of apparent common understanding reigning in this room with considerations that are of great importance to our delegation. I recall a saying that sums up the essence of the approach to the evaluation of results in this Group, which is that he who does not go forwards goes backwards. We therefore welcome your report, Mr. Chairman, that was recently circulated under symbol MTN.GNG/NG5/23, in particular as regards special and differential treatment to be given in line with the Mid-Term Term Review Agreement. This is a step forwards. From our standpoint, it implies development of the principle that government measures on assistance, whether direct or indirect, to encourage agricultural and rural development are an integral part of the economic development programmes of developing countries, and that therefore such measures are unconditionally covered by special and differential treatment.

In connection with the question of special treatment, our delegation wishes briefly to recall its position on the salient aspects of the war on drugs. Next month, August, will mark the first anniversary of the declaration of all-out war on drugs by Colombia, five months after the Montreal Meeting. I am not going to draw up the list of those who have fallen in this war, or of its economic, social and political costs. However, this forum has a specific responsibility to recognize the importance of the diversification and eradication of illegal crops.

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This forum also has a responsibility to find the ways and means for developing countries to be able to carry out successfully this process of diversification and eradication in the areas where illegal crops are produced. We trust that this approach will be suitably reflected in the reform package for agriculture.

Furthermore, with regard to country lists, without prejudice to the decision adopted two weeks ago by our Ministers at the Cairns Group Meeting at Santiago, it is recognized that the information can be submitted without technical difficulties by the delegations of developed countries. It may be the case that the databases of developing countries may not be entirely compatible with what is requested. I take your statement today, Mr. Chairman, to mean that this will be taken into account in order to grant flexibility and technical assistance to developing countries in the submission of their country lists.

Lastly, we accept your offer to have the statements at this meeting circulated as documents of the GATT Uruguay Round, including our statement at the previous meeting of this Negotiating Group.