

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)
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TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURE: JULY 1990

Statement by Morocco (20 July 1990)

Listening to the various statements, I feel that your situation resembles that of a football trainer. When the team wins a match, the praise and congratulations are lavished on the players, but when the team loses it is the trainer who is put in the stocks.

For my part I have always felt sympathy for the trainers - who have a thankless task - for they are brave, tenacious and selfless.

Having said that, I have already had occasion to present my comments on your text and point out certain inadequacies in it, and if you will allow me I should like to reiterate some of them.

1. We appreciate the fact that the "equivalent commitments" concerning products for which an aggregate measure of support cannot be calculated, are to be spelt out. An exhaustive definition of these concepts should be included in the framework agreement on agriculture.
2. Further analysis will be necessary in respect of the definitions linked to statistical data and reference prices so as to pinpoint support levels.
3. Although the commitments envisaged in this draft text offer some flexibility, they are of value only if the surveillance mechanism is so conceived as to ensure effective implementation of the framework agreement.
4. The deadline of 1 October 1990 proposed for communicating information on agricultural trade policies (internal support, protection at the frontier and export competition) seems too early, in particular for developing countries. I have noted what you have just said concerning the flexibility that will be afforded to developing countries in this context.
5. As regards safeguards, tariffication should not prevent recourse to additional protection mechanisms in the event of abrupt variations in world prices, within the framework of strengthened GATT rules and disciplines.

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6. As regards sanitary and phytosanitary obstacles, as we have already said the negotiations should lead to the elaboration of transparent standards and regulations on scientific bases and to a strengthening of the rôle of the organizations with responsibility in this area (O.I.E, C.I.P.V, etc...).

7. As regards coverage, I have noted your confirmation that the framework agreement would cover all agricultural products, including fruit and vegetables.

8. Lastly, paragraph 23 seems to us to fall short of what had been agreed in the mid-term review. It should therefore be reformulated so as to meet the concerns of net food-importing developing countries.