

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.TNC/W/28
MTN.GNG/W/24
MTN.GNG/NG6/W/61
5 November 1990

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: English

Trade Negotiations Committee
Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)
Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

**STATEMENT BY ACP COUNTRIES, CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
GATT AND SIGNATORIES TO THE LOME CONVENTION**

The following communication dated 25 October 1990 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Jamaica.

I am forwarding the attached Statement by African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, Contracting Parties to the GATT and Signatories to the Lomé Convention, on the potential trade impact of offers on tropical products made in the Uruguay Round negotiations. I am requesting that this Statement be circulated as a document of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), the Group of Negotiations on Goods (GNG) and the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products.

Statement on the Potential Trade Impact of
Tropical Products Offers by:
African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries,
Contracting Parties to the GATT and Signatories
to the Lomé Convention

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP), contracting parties to the GATT and signatories to the Lomé Convention, have, in the past, drawn attention to the possible adverse implications of tropical products liberalization for their countries export trade. At the time of the Montreal Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting, ACP Ministers noted, inter alia, that (i) the tropical products offer by the European Communities entailed a significant reduction of the advantages enjoyed by ACP countries as part of a contractual agreement; (ii) recalled that many of the ACP countries are among the category of the Least Developed, and (iii) emphasized that in the Uruguay Round negotiations this should be recognized and concrete measures implemented to provide equivalent advantages to the ACP countries.

It is relevant and timely to recall the particular status of the negotiations on tropical products. In adopting the Punta del Este Declaration, Ministers recognized, inter alia, "the importance of trade in tropical products to a large number of less developed contracting parties and agree(d) that negotiations in this area shall receive special attention" It is also relevant to recall that the General principles Governing the Negotiations require that "special attention shall be given to the particular situation and problems of the least developed countries and to the need to encourage measures to facilitate expansion of their trading opportunities." (para. B VII):

Against this background, ACP countries, contracting parties to the GATT and signatories to the Lomé Convention, are compelled to draw the attention of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), the Group of Negotiations on Goods (GNG) and the Negotiating Group on Tropical products to the broad findings emerging from our assessment and from analyses of the Uruguay Round tropical products offers.

Our assessment as well as econometric analyses of the revised and consolidated offers of tariff concessions on tropical products made by major developed contracting parties as of 31 July 1990 indicate, inter alia, the following:

developed countries will be the major beneficiaries of the offers on the table: major losers will be the countries of the African region: their losses would be due mainly to expected declines in their exports of tropical products to the European Community market as a result of the erosion of preferential margins.

The ACP countries, contracting parties to the GATT and signatories to the Lomé Convention, consider it imperative that the foregoing findings

should be brought to the attention of all participants in the Uruguay Round negotiations and strongly urge that corrective action be taken to ensure a balanced outcome.

We recall that Ministers in Punta del Este mandated that the GNG shall conduct an evaluation of the results before the formal completion of negotiations and, also, that Ministers in Montreal, at the time of the Mid Term Review, required that the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products conduct an evaluation of the results attained in the negotiating group before the formal completion of negotiations. The ACP countries request that the abovementioned findings be taken fully into account and acted on in the process of evaluation.