

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

**TROPICAL PRODUCTS**

**Recognition of liberalization measures**

**Communication from Nigeria**

The following communication dated 6 November 1990 has been received from the delegation of Nigeria.

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In accordance with the requirements of the negotiations, Nigeria wishes to inform the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products of the steps it has taken since the beginning of the Uruguay Round to eliminate some non-tariff measures that affected some tropical products.

Nigeria hopes that appropriate recognition will be given to measures so far adopted by the Government. These measures should be recognized as part of Nigeria's offer in the negotiations. Nigeria therefore requests other parties to reciprocate the offer accordingly.

1. Abolition of Commodity Marketing Boards

In context of deregulation and liberalization of the economy, Nigeria has unilaterally abolished marketing boards. Marketing boards were hitherto created to control and regulate the sale of commodities. The system provided a situation where boards acting on behalf of the Government served as the link between the commodity producers/farmers and buyers of the products. The abolition of the marketing Boards has enabled farmers to sell their products freely in an open market. It led to farmers earning higher income for their products and made non-oil exports more attractive.

2. Abolition of Import and Export Licensing Requirements

A major component of the Structural Adjustment Programme was the abolition of import and export licensing requirements in respect of many commodities including tropical products. The elimination of licenses removed the restrictions placed on the import and export of certain products. This has led to increase efficiency and improvement in the allocation and utilization of scarce resources.

3. Elimination of Import Prohibition

Import prohibitions were maintained on some products for balance-of-payment purposes. In line with increased deregulation of the economy, the list of banned imports has been reviewed downwards from 74 to 16 items only. Those still banned are for national security reasons. The reduction of the items on the prohibition list has liberalized trade in the tropical products affected.