

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

COMMUNICATION BY THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF  
MALAYSIA, SENEGAL AND VENEZUELA

The Permanent Missions of Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, present their compliments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Secretariat in the opportunity to request the distribution, as a document in the Uruguay Round Negotiations, the enclosed statement issued by the Steering Committee on the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (G-15), on the progress in the ongoing Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The Permanent Missions of Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade the assurances of their highest consideration.

The Steering Committee of the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (G15), integrated by the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Senegal and Venezuela, meeting in Geneva on 6-7 November 1990, reviewed the evolution of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and after consultations with other member countries of the G15, decided to make the following statement:

"With less than a month to the opening of the Ministerial Meeting in Brussels, we the members of the Group of 15, along with other developing countries, are witnessing a paralysis not of our making. The major trading countries, who pressed so insistently for these negotiations to take place, now seem incapable of taking the necessary substantive and political decisions to push the negotiating process forward.

"In virtually no area of negotiations, do we see progress being made. In agriculture, the delay by a major party in presenting a trade liberalization offer has prevented negotiations from effectively starting. In textiles and clothing, the prospects are bleak and far from the agreed objectives. In services, proposals are being promoted that would, void of substance any service framework agreement. In market access, certain of the industrial countries are coming forward with tariff offers that fall far short of the expectations of our countries. In safeguards, there is a marked reluctance to take the one fundamental decision regarding non-selectivity as well as the elimination of 'grey-area' measures that would guarantee the integrity of the multilateral trading system. These are merely examples of a deepening malaise and crisis of indecision.

"In the history of multilateral trade negotiations, developing countries have often been accused of demanding something for nothing. The partiality and basic illegitimacy of these kinds of arguments have never been clearer than today. Developing countries have met the challenges of the Uruguay Round, sometimes at immediate costs to themselves. Despite reservations in a number of areas, we have been willing to contribute to solid, mutually beneficial results. Developing country contributions to the Uruguay Round far surpass anything that has been done before, and reflect the importance we attach to a substantial and credible outcome to the negotiations.

"Furthermore, a large and growing number of developing countries have already liberalized their trade without waiting for others to do so. Such measures must receive proper credit and recognition. The Uruguay Round results should reflect the negotiating mandate, including with respect to special and differential treatment.

"We appeal to the major trading countries, that spent so much effort and political capital in promoting the most ambitious multilateral trade negotiations in history, now to take the responsibility that is theirs, and bring this endeavour to a successful conclusion. A successful outcome of the Uruguay Round cannot be assured without a sincere commitment by the leading players in the international trading system. Indecision, and a failure to exercise political courage will clearly expose the lack of political leadership and commitment to negotiate in good faith for the successful conclusion of the negotiations. We are prepared to continue our negotiating efforts, but we also feel obliged to underline that we could not accept a last minute deal among the major trading partners presented to us as a final package.

"We fervently hope that our appeal will be heard, and that we can all participate in constructive negotiations in the short time that remains in order to make the Uruguay Round a success, to be shared by the entire trading community.

"Due to the importance we the members of the Group of 15 attach to these negotiations, we have decided to consult on a continuous basis as to their evolution and make a political assessment forthwith."