

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.TNC/W/47  
3 December 1990

Special Distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: English

COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRIA, FINLAND, ICELAND,  
NORWAY, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND

The Delegations of Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have requested that the proposal set out below, for a statement on trade and environment to be made by ministers in Brussels on 3-7 December 1990, be circulated to Delegations attending the Ministerial Conference.

STATEMENT ON TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(Made by ministers convened in Brussels on December 3-7 1990  
to conclude the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.)

RECOGNIZING that the environment provides a necessary basis for life and health, and for sustainable economic and social development;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the growing importance of environmental issues, and that most Contracting Parties have adopted national policies to protect the environment and to preserve natural resources;

RECALLING the importance of international cooperation on environmental issues with global implications and the need to intensify such cooperation;

RECOGNIZING that sustainable development requires the implementation of both environmental, economic and trade policies to foster sound growth and efficient resource allocation;

NOTING that environmental policy measures may have trade effects; that trade and environmental policies need to be mutually supportive; and that every effort should be made to increase their combined effectiveness;

RECALLING the provisions of the General Agreement, and that issues relating to the environment have been discussed in several negotiating groups within the Uruguay Round;

DECLARE

that priority attention should be devoted to interlinkages between trade policy and environmental policy, and for that purpose requires the CONTRACTING PARTIES to:

- (a) undertake a study on the relationships between environmental policies and the rules of the multilateral trading system;
- (b) consider the implications of preparatory work for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the possibility of submitting a GATT contribution to that Conference;
- (c) convene in 1991 the GATT Working Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade under an updated mandate to be decided by the Council of the GATT, in order to provide Contracting Parties with a forum for these issues.