

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
Brussels, December 1990

EL SALVADOR

Statement by Mrs. Ana Cristina Sol,
Ambassador to Belgium

Since the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este, El Salvador has had increasing hopes that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations would bring greater liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries and especially of those which, like mine, are developing countries.

In the context of the Uruguay Round, my country decided, before 30 April 1987, to initiate the procedure of accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with the intention of negotiating the conditions of its accession in the course of the Uruguay Round. During the last few months, President Alfredo Cristiani and his Government, in a special demonstration of their keen interest in the matter, have intensified their efforts in the GATT Working Party appointed to examine El Salvador's application for accession to GATT. We particularly wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Emilio Artacho, the Ambassador of Spain in Geneva, who chaired our Working Party. We hope that the negotiations for our accession to GATT will be finalized at the 46th Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to be held on 12 and 13 December next in Geneva.

As part of our accession process we have made important and positive contributions to the multilateral trading system and to the Round. We believe in fact that our contribution has gone well beyond the Punta del Este objectives and those of the Mid-Term Review, held at Montreal. El Salvador's concessions, together with the implementation of significant autonomous measures of trade liberalization and extensive improvements in access to our market should be given fitting recognition and credit in the Uruguay Round negotiating process.

All these new economic policy measures of El Salvador have been carried out notwithstanding the fact that our country has experienced more than ten years of crisis, attacks and state intervention. May I point out in this respect that during the period between 1979 and 1989, the gross domestic product of my country declined by 13 per cent and exports dropped from 1.1 billion dollars in 1979 to only 500 million dollars in 1989.

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El Salvador, as we have stated jointly with our colleagues of the Central American Common Market in our document MTN.TNC/W/31, hopes that the Uruguay Round will close with an international trading system committed to full liberalization of tropical products which are our major interest, without any exclusion at all. Coffee, together with other products, forms part of our specific requests for effective and free access for this product to the international market. We urgently request non-discriminatory and free access for coffee to one of our most important and fundamental markets for this export product on which thousands of our agricultural workers depend and which is the principal source of the foreign exchange and revenue that enable El Salvador to pursue its legitimate aspiration for sustained development of its economy.

My Government hopes that new and effective advances will be made in the offers on tropical products presented by the developed countries and that they will give priority to, and provide for the fullest liberalization of, conditions of market access, as established in the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este.

In this sector, El Salvador endorses the statement by the Latin American Group that it is in our best interest to obtain advance implementation of concessions on tropical products.

With regard to textiles and clothing, we would like to express our special interest that due account should be taken, in negotiating the new framework for bringing back textiles into the multilateral trading system, of the position and legitimate aspirations of small suppliers. In this connection, liberalization of textiles and clothing should make it possible, on a flexible basis and without any conditions attached, for countries such as El Salvador to expand their production and exports without these being exposed to the application of restrictive safeguards.

Owing to time constraints, I shall not refer to each of the subjects of the Uruguay Round. May I simply say that El Salvador, as a developing country, hopes that both in the negotiations themselves and in the results that we shall obtain from this Round, the developed contracting parties will grant and effectively apply differential and more favourable treatment for the developing countries, as laid down in Part IV and in other relevant provisions of the General Agreement, in the Decision of 28 November 1979 and in the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este itself.

Lastly, may I express El Salvador's sincere hope that by the end of this week we shall attain all the positive results necessary to contribute to greater liberalization and expansion of world trade for the benefit of all our countries. President Cristiani trusts that, through the efforts of each one of us and the union of will with action, we shall realize the great objective of Punta del Este at this meeting in Brussels.