

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.TNC/W/88

11 October 1991

Special distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: English/
Spanish

COMMUNICATION FROM URUGUAY

In a communication dated 4 October 1991, the Permanent Representative of Uruguay, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sixth Consultation Meeting of SELA on the Uruguay Round, has requested that the conclusions adopted at that meeting held on 3 October in Geneva, be brought to the attention of the Uruguay Round participants.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean:

1. Met on 3 October 1991 in Geneva, to review and evaluate the situation of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and to define their strategy for the final phase.
2. Recalled that, in the evaluation undertaken on 23 November 1990 (MTN.TNC/W/41 and Add.1) and presented to the Brussels Ministerial Meeting, it was stated that the serious imbalances and critical situation prevailing in the negotiations threatened the Brussels Ministerial Meeting with failure, as it proved to be the case.
3. Recognized that, since Brussels, certain political developments have contributed to encourage the expectations to finalize the negotiations, including the extension of the "fast track" procedures in the United States and the Meeting of Heads of State or Government of Latin America, Spain and Portugal, held in Guadalajara, Mexico. The personal commitment undertaken by Heads of State or Government of the main industrialized countries in the London Economic Summit Meeting is also a positive indicator.
4. Expressed, however, their preoccupations with respect to two kinds of asymmetries which have persisted since the Brussels meeting. On the one hand, in areas such as services and intellectual property the broad outlines of final texts are clearly emerging, in marked contrast with the substantially unsatisfactory situation in other areas of greater interest to the region such as: market access, including tropical products and natural resource-based products, textiles, agriculture, and the strengthening of the rules and disciplines of the multilateral trading system. On the other hand, while the Latin American and Caribbean countries have participated actively with

constructive and flexible positions, this attitude had not been reflected in the position of the major industrialized countries.

5. Agreed on the need to complete the Uruguay Round in the shortest possible time. This, of course, shall only be viable in the fulfilment of the Punta del Este Declaration and the Mid-Term Review Decisions.
6. Therefore, they took note of the decision of the President of the Trade Negotiations Committee at the Official Level, to accelerate the negotiating process in order to produce a new version of document MTN.TNC/W/35/Rev.1. This would permit a global assessment of the state of the negotiations, of the linkages existing among the different areas and issues of the Round, and of the negotiating process necessary in order to successfully complete the Round.
7. Considered that this process would only be valid if it redresses the above-mentioned asymmetries and is subject to procedures that guarantee transparency, full participation, and results that amply contemplate the fundamental interests of all countries.
8. In this respect, they reaffirmed their Ministers' statement that

"A set of limited or partial results, especially if they do not correspond to the objectives that are most important¹ for our countries, would therefore be totally unacceptable".¹
9. Recalled that, in conformity with the Punta del Este Declaration, an evaluation of the results of the negotiations must be undertaken before their completion. To these effects, the region shall contribute with an updating of its own evaluation, which will be guided in accordance with the following criteria, as defined in July 1990:

the results should:

- be fully conducive to the attainment of the objectives of the Punta del Este Declaration and, in particular, to the economic development;
- contribute to a substantial improvement in conditions of market access for all products without exception, so as to ensure that less-developed countries have an increasing share in world exports;
- include reinforced and objective multilateral disciplines that strengthen the multilateral trading system through:

¹Article 16c of Decision 300 adopted by the XVI Latin American Council of SELA.

- (i) full respect for the principle of non-discrimination;
 - (ii) an effective differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries;
 - (iii) the prohibition of all arrangements for market sharing and managed trade.
 - (iv) the prohibition of any unilateral action outside the legal framework of the General Agreement; and
 - (v) the maintenance of a strengthened and fully effective system for dispute settlement (MTN.TNC/W/22 and MTN.TNC/W/41).
10. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are willing to continue their substantial contribution and to assume their responsibilities -- as their programmes of profound trade liberalization and their positive contributions in all areas throughout the Round have demonstrated -- under the conviction that all other participants will proceed similarly, in particular the major trading nations.
11. Decided that the VI Consultation Meeting will remain open in order to monitor the evolution of the process and update the evaluation at the time deemed to be most appropriate.