

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/40/ST/15
20 January 1993
Special Distribution

(UR-94-0017)

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: French

CAMEROON

Statement by H.E. Mr. François-Xavier Ngoubeyou
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Cameroon shares the views expressed by Malaysia, on behalf of developing countries, and by Egypt, on behalf of African countries.

Allow me, however, to say a few words on the occasion of this crucial and solemn meeting on 15 December 1993, which marks the end of our work. Like preceding speakers, we welcome the fact that the negotiations have finally been concluded, even though the results do not come up to our expectations, mainly as far as market access is concerned.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, this is the field in which we hoped to obtain significant advantages in exchange for the very substantial concessions we made, in particular concerning new issues.

We note, however, that the liberalization of conditions of access for the majority of our exports is somewhat restricted, notably for tropical products such as tea, bananas, cocoa beans, coffee and their products. The same is true for timber, timber products and aluminium.

The results are somewhat disappointing in this area because unfortunately they are accompanied by an important diminution in the preferences which we had under the Lomé Convention and this will have a noticeably negative effect on our flows and export capacity.

Nevertheless, my country does not intend to give up and in the area of market access we will soon undertake a study of the new possibilities offered by the negotiations for diversifying exports in the future. In doing so, we would be particularly grateful to be able to utilize the technical assistance of the GATT Secretariat once again. Its assistance has been extremely valuable since the beginning of the negotiations and every measure should be taken to strengthen it in coming months. There is no doubt that this is the wish of a large number of developing countries.

For Africa, the results achieved after seven years of Uruguay Round negotiations are as a whole relatively mixed - at least as far as market access is concerned. Cameroon has nevertheless noted two areas of satisfaction:

Firstly, the strengthening of the rules of the legal framework in which we operate appears to us to be an extremely positive element in the negotiations, especially with respect to halting and eliminating protectionism. We also consider that the new provisions on safeguards, subsidies and countervailing measures are a step in the right direction.

Although some areas still need to be clarified, it is important to stress that the consolidation of the rules and their strengthening by the addition of new regulations are essential for the credibility and validity of the system as a whole, especially for us in developing countries.

Secondly, in new areas such as services and intellectual property we consider that the texts before us have the advantage of permitting the transformation and adaptation of the GATT system making it more universal while at the same time incorporating these new barometers of the global economy within its scope. For developing countries, these new sectors can constitute powerful tools for development provided that we can obtain the means to utilize them in order to seek new investment and accumulate technological expertise.

Without bitterness but with slight envy, we note that large countries knew how to protect their weak sectors and did so. On the other hand, in Africa as a whole and in Cameroon in particular, we gave all without any ulterior motive.

We welcome the decision by the negotiating committee to prepare a separate programme of work to deal with the difficult and sensitive problem of trade and the environment in a climate of serenity. My delegation will willingly participate in carrying out this programme.

In any event, we call on the international community, on developed countries in particular, to take our concerns into account, especially those of the least advanced amongst us, in implementing the commitments undertaken today.

These are the conclusions which we draw from these negotiations, although the latter only represent one stage in the reorganization of global trade.

I cannot end my statement without congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, whose conviction and tenacity ensured that we did not have to extend the Round once again. My congratulations also go to Mr. Dunkel, your predecessor, whom we remember with esteem; to His Excellency Ambassador Hawes, Chairman of the Group of Negotiations on Services; and to His Excellency Ambassador Lacarte, Chairman of the Informal Group on Institutional Issues.

My delegation also thanks the Secretariat as a whole, whose dedication contributed to the success of today's meeting and to the preparation of more than five hundred pages of the final document which our capitals will have to analyse as from tomorrow.