

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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BANGLADESH

Statement by Mr. Syed Jamaluddin
Minister (Economic Affairs)
(Speaking on behalf of the Least-Developed Countries)

It is a memorable day in the history of GATT. The marathon negotiations of the Uruguay Round have reached their culmination today. On this historic occasion, we extend our warm congratulations to you for your untiring efforts for bringing the Round to a successful conclusion. We thank the "Friends of the Chair" and your distinguished colleagues for their contribution. We are thankful to Ambassador Seade for his whole-hearted co-operation in the negotiation of LLDC proposals. We appreciate particularly the valuable assistance rendered by the Director and members of the Technical Co-operation Division.

We approach the end of the Uruguay Round with mixed feelings. We are happy that at last the Uruguay Round has come to a successful conclusion. It will facilitate the opening up of markets world-wide and give a boost to growth and development. Equally important, a new set of improved rules should strengthen the multilateral trading system. These rules will govern the system of international trade into the next century.

The least-developed countries are, however, disappointed that their concerns have not been adequately reflected in the Final Act. The Punta del Este Declaration had given the LLDCs high hopes, but the promise made in Punta del Este has only been partially fulfilled. The evaluation report prepared by the GATT Secretariat has shown that the LLDCs have been marginalized. In many areas we have not been given the preferential treatment although we have extended our fullest support and co-operation to a successful conclusion of the Round. We had made specific proposals in different areas for providing special treatment to least-developed countries. We thank other developing countries for supporting our proposals. However, in spite of the many compromises which we had to make, we did not receive enough sympathy and generosity. At the end of the negotiation we have been left with some horizontal provisions in the nature of best endeavours.

Let me assure you that the LLDCs will continue to remain active participants in the Multilateral Trading System. It is our earnest hope that the international community, particularly the big trading partners, will be more responsive to the needs of the most disadvantaged group of nations. In the implementation of market access, developed countries and other trading partners who are in a position to do so should find ways of minimizing the negative consequences affecting the LLDCs.

We wish to reiterate that the LLDCs will need much more assistance and support after the conclusion of the Round. The complexity of the new rules and the implementation of the decisions demand that a separate unit should be established in the WTO Secretariat to enable the LLDCs to implement the decisions and to monitor the progress of special treatment to LLDCs.

Finally, we join the consensus subject to approval of our Ministers.

GATT SECRETARIAT