

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/40/ST/35
24 January 1994
Special Distribution

(UR-94-0037)

Trade Negotiations Committee

Original: English

TANZANIA

Statement by H.E. Mr. E. Elikunda Mtango
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

My delegation is pleased to witness the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiating process. We are conscious of the tremendous importance of the outcome to international trade in goods and services and to the future arrangements in the field of intellectual property and direct investments. We were therefore part of the excitement at the prospects of a successful Uruguay Round in view of the contribution this will make to the economies of participating members.

However, we the least-developed members who number almost one third of the total membership of GATT view the success of the Uruguay Round with certain misgivings. As we stated during the recent evaluation taken in the TNC/GNG, the impact of the Uruguay Round on creating trade expansion for the least-developed countries is bound to be limited. Moreover, the expected obligations flowing from new rules, disciplines, and commitments will necessitate formidable domestic efforts to meet the follow-up activities from the Round. It is in this respect that my delegation would like to emphasize the significance of having measures specifically designed to address LLDCs' problems. We have advocated a number of concrete measures but all we obtained were best-endeavour provisions with limited practical benefits. Even at this late hour we should like to place on record some of the measures we advocated in the interest of fairness and in order for the Uruguay Round process to have political credibility. We requested that measures must be developed inter alia to:

- First, offset the erosion of preferential trade margins resulting from the global liberalization process;
- second, enhance the trade and technological capacity of the LLDCs' economies, to enable them to diversify their trade, both in terms of markets and products;
- third, permit flexible application of the rules, especially in new areas, so that LLDCs' development options and objectives are promoted; and
- fourth, alleviate the negative impact on food prices due to liberalization of commodity trade and the linked anticipated price increase in import bills.

The manner in which the Final Act has incorporated some of the above and other concerns of the LLDCs is not satisfactory. Tanzania feels that the case of our particular problems could have been offered better treatment if some major traders had shown the required flexibility. We realize, however, that we have to face reality: that as we stand now many poor people have lost out to those who are already better off and that they should not lament. After all, the scriptures have told us that
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to those that have plenty, more shall be given, and to those who are deprived even the little they have shall be taken away. However, for now I should like to focus on what is more relevant to the mood of the day. That is to say the economic freeze facing the million of the poor could intensify with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. But the freeze could also be more severe without a successful conclusion. I shall therefore turn to the major gainers and say to them that they have an international responsibility to share some of their gains with countries that stand to lose. Further study is necessary to determine the modalities, but some suggestions have been made. There should be created a global "STABEX" (Sic) system where all the major trading countries participate. There should be created a market-access aid programme to help the poor members diversify products and market outlets. There should be a system to support domestic food production, etc. Finally, my delegation strongly supports the proposal that the new World Trade Organization should have a special unit to provide assistance to LLDCs and to work on their issues and concerns.