

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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VENEZUELA

Statement by Mr. Juan Francisco Misle
Minister Counsellor (Economic Affairs)

I should like to take this opportunity to express my Government's satisfaction at having arrived today, after so many difficulties, at the conclusion of this important stage in the Uruguay Round negotiations. The Final Act, containing the agreements negotiated over seven years, in our opinion represents a significant improvement in the norms which will govern future global trade, guaranteeing more favourable and predictable conditions for the development of trade among countries.

If our Government's belief that growth in trade will be a catalyst for the development and well-being of our peoples, strengthening the values of freedom and democracy, we consider that the Final Act, which we will now transmit to our governments for their consideration, is the expression of a genuine effort on the part of all participants in the Uruguay Round, despite the fact that some of our hopes and expectations have not been met. The strengthening of the multilateral trade system, however, constitutes one of the areas which gives us the greatest satisfaction. With regard to market access, we hope that the period before us up to the beginning of 1994 will be used to improve the offers submitted by our main trading partners. In any event, our countries, in particular Venezuela, have for several years, been opening up trade to a significant extent and this has been of considerable benefit to our partners. Consequently, the Uruguay Round should reflect a just compensation for the unilateral efforts made by Venezuela.

Finally, I should like to express my Government's gratitude for the important work done by you and the GATT Secretariat over the years; gratitude goes as well to Mr. Arthur Dunkel, and we should also like to express our admiration for the indefatigable contribution of all the negotiators in the Round.