

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
Marrakesh (Morocco), 12-15 April 1994

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KUWAIT

Statement by H.E. Dr. Waleed Al-Wuhaib
Under-Secretary of Commerce and Industry

It gives me great honour to attend this important and historical Meeting of the Ministerial Trade Negotiations Committee of the GATT.

And I feel a special pride to see this historical meeting being held in the beautiful Arab City of Marrakesh.

So, in the name of the State of Kuwait, I would like to express great thanks and gratitude for the Kingdom of Morocco, His Royal Majesty King Hassan II and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Mohammed and to the Moroccan people for their kind and generous gesture to host this important international meeting.

And I would like also to thank all countries and delegates who participated in the Round.

And also the whole family of GATT's Secretariat headed by Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Director-General, and his predecessor, Mr. Arthur Dunkel for their special efforts, who led the negotiation to this fruitful and remarkable result.

The agreements, understandings and other provisions of the Final Act, to be signed, includes ideal and logical rules of the international family leading to more fair distribution of world trade, giving better chances to developing countries to access markets of developed countries, and to develop their economies gradually with simultaneous suitable steps of opening their borders to international competition according to their levels of development.

The least-developed countries were also subject to a fair amount of attention when enacting the provisions of the Final Act.

But it seems to me that the most important side for all these efforts will start on entry into force of the agreements and legal instruments of the Round.

Only steady and sincere implementation shall make these efforts successful to all.

The State of Kuwait became a contracting party to the GATT in 1963, shortly after independence. We are still depending on imports to satisfy most of our needs, especially after the looting and destruction of all our factories and industries during the brutal Iraqi invasion and occupation.

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So our country is not only opening her borders to foreign imports freely and competitively, but also welcoming foreign investments in many areas and sectors, especially those depending on advanced technology.

We are an open country, believing in market economy, with a vital role for private sector. We are on the threshold of a big programme of privatization in our public sector.

Cooperation with other countries, bilaterally and multilaterally or through international organizations, is one of our most important priorities and strategies.

At the present time we are opening our markets to huge quantities and values of foreign imports freely without any barriers. We hope and expect that our trading partners shall do the same, with our few items of exports to them, namely crude oil, petroleum and petrochemical products, and to stop adding new taxes on their imports of our products under the umbrella of different names or excuses, so as to enable our people to get a fair revenue for their natural resources and exports, and also for the welfare of final consumers in their respective countries.

I sincerely hope for prosperity, stability and justice to all the countries in coming years, and under the auspices and guides of our new WTO.