

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

**MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/ST/50**  
13 April 1994  
General Distribution  
(UR-94-0156)

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

Original: French

**ALGERIA**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mustapha Mokroui**  
**Ministerial Delegate for Trade**

I would like first to express, on behalf of the Algerian delegation, our deep gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, who has honoured our conference with his august presence, and to thank the Moroccan Government and people for making such thorough preparations for our work and for the quality of the reception given us.

May I also pay tribute to Mr. Peter Sutherland, GATT Director-General, for all the hard work that he has personally invested, with the unstinting support of his colleagues, in bringing this eighth cycle of multilateral trade negotiations to a successful close.

We are pleased to note that today, despite the gravity of the economic crisis and the many upheavals of all kinds taking place around the world, the negotiations of the Uruguay Round have led to an outcome that clearly constitutes a crucial step forward in the further globalization of trade and in the efforts to rejuvenate international cooperation.

It is no doubt superfluous, in this setting, to stress the importance of the creation of the World Trade Organization for the credibility of this outcome and for our ability to meet the challenges of a global economy and development.

Our presence here is testimony to Algeria's determination to develop a dynamic economic policy designed to promote exports, liberalize and rationalize imports, open up financial markets and stimulate foreign investment, in short, a policy of active and equitable integration with the international division of labour.

The choice of Punta del Este and Marrakesh for launching and closing the Uruguay Round negotiations encourages us to hope that a multilateral trade system will emerge which responds to the concerns of the developing countries.

It must, however, be said that uncertainties and the danger of a further marginalization continue to weigh upon the future of the developing countries, despite the promising outlook for increasing world prosperity.

One of the measures adopted in the framework of the Uruguay Round, the liberalization of trade in agricultural products, is, notwithstanding its merits, a source of concern, because it is not accompanied by suitable measures to protect against its adverse effects on, and implications for the world food system.

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In this regard the net food-importing developing countries face the consequences of a dependency which, it must be admitted, has been encouraged at international level, of export subsidies and support.

Given their worsening situation, there would appear to be good cause to introduce, on a concessional and preferential basis, measures that will genuinely offset the effects of rising prices on the balance of payments, and to implement effective cooperation policies to promote agricultural production in those countries.

Special and differential treatment therefore assumes its full importance and its full significance, its purpose being quite simply to create conditions in which the developing countries can make the most of their comparative advantages.

It is also a question of resolutely combating the inequity of underdevelopment, undertaking to eliminate the objective constraints linked to the debt-servicing burden, restrictions on access to markets and financial resources, the erosion of commodity prices and monetary disorder, which are all obstacles to economic growth and the liberalization of trade.

That shows just how important it is to create a link between the new regulation of world trade and development. In a spirit of interdependence, fairness and solidarity, the international community is duty-bound to provide firm support to the developing countries in their efforts to build a diversified and competitive economy that will promote their gradual but effective integration into international trade.

The developing countries count above all on their individual and collective efforts. They have imposed harsh adjustment programmes on themselves and accepted the challenge of opening their markets in sectors in which technological handicaps weaken their ability to withstand international competition.

If the sacrifices entailed are to make any sense, the commitment of the developing countries to economic models based upon a market economy and the liberalization of trade must have the support of a more favourable international environment.

Hence the need for the industrialized countries to make the structural changes necessary for a balanced and equitable international division of labour.

Despite their shortcomings, the results of the Uruguay Round represent an appreciable step forward in the multi-dimensional approach to international trade and give grounds for being confident that a clear, predictable and non-discriminatory trade system will emerge.

That system must be objectively assessed to determine its impact on the developing countries and to define ways and means of ensuring their genuine involvement in the expansion of world trade.

Similarly, our next topic for consideration, "Trade and the Environment", should be seen in the context of the recommendations of the Rio Conference and Agenda 21, which have established the principle of North-South cooperation based on shared but different responsibilities and reconciling the imperatives of protecting the global environment with the objectives of economic and social development.

Allow me, in concluding, to voice the hope that our future deliberations will be characterized by a balance of interests and complementarity and that a true spirit of cooperation will inspire our endeavours to build together a common future consistent with the legitimate aspirations of all humanity.