

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/ST/45
13 April 1994
General Distribution
(UR-94-0187)

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

Original: English

CHINA

Statement by Mr. Gu Yongjiang
Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation

The Chinese Delegation is very pleased to come to the beautiful ancient city of Marrakesh to participate in the historical Uruguay Round Ministerial Meeting. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our host - His Majesty King Hassan II and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and its people - for the excellent preparation and arrangements for this grand gathering.

The Uruguay Round negotiation was an unprecedented multilateral trade negotiation. It not only produced extensive and substantial commitments on market access but also strengthened and expanded the set of multilateral rules governing world trade. We welcome the package agreement reached at the Uruguay Round and are prepared to make our efforts for its smooth implementation.

The Chinese government supports the founding of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Its establishment will signify a new stage for the world multilateral trading system. We hope the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations can be implemented fully and in good faith in the new system of WTO to further strengthen the multilateral trading system and contain trade protectionism and unilateral trade actions. We hope that the new trading system will enable economic and trade exchanges among countries to be conducted on a more stable and predictable basis and will lead to more trade, more investment, more jobs and higher economic growth throughout the world.

In the course of the Uruguay Round negotiations, a larger number of developing countries participated fully in the negotiations. They have played positive roles and made important contributions by adopting a wide range of trade liberalization measures for the expansion of international trade. However, the interests of the developing countries have not received adequate consideration. The Chinese government maintains that the developing countries should have more and equal opportunities for participation in the new trading system, and the principle of special and more favourable treatment should be fully reflected to enhance the interests of the developing countries, particularly the least-developed countries. We share the concerns expressed by many developing countries over a number of important issues including trade and environment as well as the social aspects of trade. We hold that the international community should take full consideration of the views of the developing countries in these areas. The implementation of the Uruguay Round package agreement is an arduous task. We hold that the pressing task for all parties concerned is to make WTO effective at the earliest possible date and to focus their attention on the discussion of how to ensure the implementation of the trade liberalization commitments provided for in the various agreements.

China started the negotiations on the resumption of its GATT contracting party status in 1986 and has also in parallel participated actively in the negotiation in all subjects of the Uruguay Round.

./.

In the process of these negotiations, China has been reforming its economic and trading systems to make them compatible with GATT rules and to enable China to meet its obligations effectively. We have reformed the central planning economic system and begun to establish a new socialist market economic structure and have made major achievements recognized by the international community. The economic reform in China as well as the prospect of its GATT membership have provided and will provide increasing opportunities for world products and services to enter into the huge Chinese market.

The WTO is to come into being in 1995. We believe that WTO should be an organization worthy of the name with broader global representation than GATT. In the world today featured with increasing economic interdependence and diversity, the multilateral trading system of WTO can operate effectively and maintain its long-term vitality only by constantly absorbing the participation of countries and regions with different economic systems and at different stages of development. The Chinese government is going to sign the package agreement of the Uruguay Round together with other participants during the Marrakesh Meeting in order to prepare necessary conditions for the early resumption of its GATT status and becoming an original member of the WTO. The full participation of China in the world trading system will play an important role for the continuation of China's economic reform and the readjustment of its industrial structure and will reinforce the universality of the WTO. In this connection, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the governments for their strong support to China in its efforts to return to the GATT.

The formal conclusion of the Uruguay Round at the historical meeting in Marrakesh and the establishment of WTO will open a new era of global economic integration. China is fully committed to the principles and rules of a new world trading system and is determined to be a responsible member of the system undertaking obligations consistent to its level of economic development. We believe that China, with a booming economy and an open market of 1.2 billion people will make important contributions to the prosperity of the world economy and the expansion of the international trade.