

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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CHILE

Statement by Mr. Carlos Figueroa Serrano
Minister for Foreign Affairs

May I begin by expressing the deepest gratitude of the Government of Chile to His Majesty King Hassan II and his Government for the warmth of their hospitality which has enabled us to bring these seven years of multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round to a prestigious close. I must also express special appreciation for the work of the Director-General of GATT, Mr. Peter Sutherland and his predecessor, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, who, with the support of all their staff, have led our negotiations to a successful conclusion.

The Government of Chile is participating in this formal meeting for the signature of the Final Act and the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, in order to assume all the rights and obligations set out in the agreements in full awareness of its responsibility.

Chile notes with particular satisfaction that the Final Act reflects the achievement of a number of the main objectives of the Punta del Este Declaration.

First, the liberalization of trade through the reduction of tariffs and the removal of a number of non-tariff measures particularly in the agricultural sector.

The integration of the textiles and clothing sector is also an important step forward, although the modalities and phases will maintain restrictions in favour of certain countries for too long.

The second objective achieved is the strengthening of the multilateral trade system by means of effective disciplines. Those disciplines reinforce the principle of non-discrimination, confirming it as the foundation of international trade relations.

Third, we welcome the fact that the Final Act establishes, both legally and politically, a new dimension of trade which is thus no longer confined to goods. The Agreement regulating trade in services is an important step forward and creates, amongst other things, a forum and machinery for enhancing liberalization.

Fourth, the improved dispute settlement system will clearly benefit medium-sized and small countries like Chile, for the certainty and stability provided by international law afford the best protection for their interests.

Lastly, the establishment of the World Trade Organization reinforces the institutional framework necessary to ensure that the results are implemented and at the same time provides a forum for multilateral negotiations geared towards liberalizing trade and freeing it from discrimination.

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The time has now come to look towards the future. The Final Act bears witness to the immense ability of the participating governments to attain results of great scope and range. We are confident that the same spirit and dedication will be maintained, for the fight against protectionism and discrimination is not over.

We believe that as from now emphasis must be placed on achieving the following objectives:

- bringing the results into effect as from 1 January 1995;
- pursuing and accelerating the liberalization of trade in agriculture;
- perfecting the rules on anti-dumping measures so as to prevent them from becoming instruments for unjustifiable and discriminatory protection;
- examining the relationship between trade and environment by reasserting the principle of national treatment, preventing extraterritorial application of national standards and avoiding unilateral sanctions;
- examining the relationship between policies and instruments to regulate competition in domestic markets, on the one hand, and the protection of benefits accruing from the liberalization of trade on the other;
- supporting the accession of new parties to the multilateral trading system so that it becomes a truly global regime.

Chile has maintained and developed an open and transparent policy for trade in goods and services, with open and transparent rules on investment. It has updated its legislation for the protection of intellectual property rights and has recently enacted a law on the environment. All this and much more has had broad backing from all sectors of national life. We have tried and tested the benefits of such a policy.

For the foregoing reasons I state that it is our firm intention to participate actively and responsibly in the World Trade Organization. Trade which is free and non-discriminatory continues to be our best option and our main priority. The rights and commitments agreed upon will find Chile to be their most resolute champion. We shall take action to safeguard our interests if the tariffication undertaken by some countries in the area of agriculture nullifies or impairs the benefits negotiated; we shall accept neither aggressive unilateralism nor the extraterritorial application of national standards; we shall oppose all forms of discrimination that are inconsistent with the objectives, principles and rules of the WTO.

Accordingly the Government of President Frei will supplement this strategy and approach by means of bilateral agreements which are fully consistent with our multilateral obligations, in other words which do not create blocs or erect new barriers to the trade of third parties.

What underlies the foregoing considerations is a deep and unequivocal conviction that trade and domestic policies must reflect the responsibility and duty to overcome poverty and ensure development with equity in a context of democracy and freedom, which is the fundamental objective of our Government. The Uruguay Round is an important step forward and looks to the future. My presence here and my statement bear formal witness to Chile's commitment to the results of the trade negotiations which constitute above all else a promise of better prospects and a life of greater dignity for the peoples of our countries.