

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Statement by Mr. Derek Keys**  
**Minister of Finance, Trade and Industry**

We very much appreciate that such an important occasion is hosted in Africa and we salute the Moroccan Government and people for the exemplary manner in which this mammoth task has been undertaken.

For South Africa this important occasion has particular significance.

Ministers will be well aware that our country stands on the threshold of its emergence into full membership of the world community of nations as a democracy in which all citizens will have equal rights.

South Africa is a founder member of the GATT and has always been an active participant in all the preceding rounds of multilateral trade negotiations. Our country also hopes to become a founder member of the World Trade Organization.

We view our membership of the GATT as of the utmost importance and consider ourselves committed to the principles expressed in the Agreement. This commitment has been tangibly demonstrated during our participation in the Uruguay Round of negotiations and in the scope of our tariff offers, as well as in our pledge to liberalize import restrictive measures.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round is important for us.

The long overdue recovery of the South African economy will have to be export-led. If we are to succeed in improving the well-being of all South Africans, the development of our manufacturing sectors into internationally competitive export sectors has to be a top priority of any future economic dispensation. It is thus of cardinal importance for South Africa to obtain adequate access to the markets of its trading partners, particularly for its manufactured goods.

The phasing out of existing measures which have caused the anti-export bias in our trade policies will be done in conjunction with the phasing in of tariff liberalization and certain supply-side measures compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organization. The purpose of these measures is to enhance South Africa's international competitiveness. The key to this process, however, remains the degree of productivity with which we apply our human and capital resources. These are aspects which will receive priority attention from the forthcoming Government of National Unity.

The World Trade Organization as successor institution to the GATT is important for South Africa as it provides an international forum where small countries can endeavour to protect their international trade interests in accordance with universally accepted rules.

I think it appropriate that I should also extend my Government's congratulations to all those officials and office bearers who so diligently carried out their tasks in bringing the Final Act and various decisions and agreements to fruition.

In conclusion, I believe that the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round will enhance international trade and that they will stand South Africa in good stead.