

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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**CAMEROON**

Statement by H.E. Mr. François-Xavier Ngoubeyou  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations Office at Geneva

The delegation of Cameroon heartily associates itself with the well-deserved tribute and thanks addressed to His Majesty King Hassan II, His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed, and to the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm welcome and flawless hospitality it has received since arriving on Moroccan soil, and for having kindly hosted this final Marrakesh Ministerial Meeting for the signing of the Final Act of the eighth round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Some of the speakers who have preceded me have already eloquently and authoritatively recalled the objectives pursued by this round of negotiations that is drawing to a close, and the events that have marked its course.

For my part I shall therefore confine myself to a brief statement of my country's views on the outcome of what might be referred to in sporting circles as this obstacle course, together with some suggestions on measures which we believe might foster international trade and in particular that of developing countries.

My country's sole ambition when entering these long and difficult negotiations was to rise to a historical challenge and show its open-mindedness by participating, along with partners from all continents, in the building of a multilateral world that would be more global, more transparent and above all more just. What is the final reality?

Today, we must acknowledge, as we pointed out at the session of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 15 December last in Geneva, that some of the results we have obtained do not seem favourable to us, at least in the short term, primarily as regards market access. In the long term, however, we consider that these results are nevertheless globally positive, and in some areas are most satisfactory.

Thus, we welcome the new advances made in the multilateral system embodied in the 28 texts of the Final Act and the many concessions included in the schedules of the various participating countries.

We also welcome the induced effects which these advances will have on the international community and on its various components in such varied and essential areas as investment, transfer of technology, employment and development in general.

For Cameroon, as for other developing countries, these results are valuable in so far as the strengthening of the rules of the multilateral framework, particularly those aimed at preventing unfair competition and the dispute settlement machinery, provide us with better protection against discrimination and bilateralism and also with better means of making our voices heard.

**GATT SECRETARIAT**

Another source of satisfaction for my delegation is the strengthening of special and differential treatment for developing countries, particularly the least-developed countries, in most of the areas included in the Final Act. While this special treatment does not always enable us to find solutions to our countries' basic trade problems, it should nevertheless help better to alleviate the difficult conditions in which our trade is conducted, thus paving the way for fuller participation in the multilateral system.

We hope to see these elements seriously taken into account in order to stem the decline in Africa's share in world trade. While the new rules laid down and the decisions already taken in various areas are conducive to the broadening of markets and the growth of developing country exports, account must still be taken of the problems relating to the coherence of monetary and trade policies, the painful financial repercussions of structural adjustment, the level of development of the trading partners, and the volume of trade.

For a thorough understanding of the impact of these elements on the trade of African countries (including Cameroon), one might refer to the Tunis Declaration of the African Trade Ministers of 24 October 1993.

We believe that observance of the rules and disciplines, implementation of special and differential treatment, the inclusion of the agreements on services, trade-related intellectual property rights, and the creation of a new institution, all hold the promise of a stronger, more transparent multilateral system that is more in keeping with the new realities of world trade.

We are well aware that the implementation of all the results of the Uruguay Round, as set out in the 20,000 pages of complex documents to which the Director-General of GATT, Mr. Sutherland, referred yesterday, is already a new matter of concern for many delegations. We therefore hope that the possibilities of technical assistance offered by the Secretariat, the International Trade Centre and even some participating countries under certain agreements included in the Final Act, will rapidly be made available.

With regard to future developments, my delegation has listened carefully to the recent proposals aimed at including social provisions among the concerns of the future World Trade Organization; these proposals do not seem to have been broached in the GATT framework and in any event do not appear either in the Punta del Este Declaration or in the Montreal Declaration.

If these issues are to be dealt with one day in the context of the World Trade Organization, we would hope that they will not be given priority over the programme of implementation of the results of this Round: as the old saying goes, "grasp all, lose all". And if that were to be the case, then we would strongly wish such long-standing issues as those related to commodities, exchange rate fluctuations, trade-related debt and compensatory measures should at last really be given equal treatment in this multilateral framework.

On the other hand, we would recall here that we fully endorse the decision on trade and environment, which will serve as a term of reference for our future work, in which my country tends to participate fully, not only because it subscribes to the objectives of Agenda 21, but also because of the possible links between this issue and the problem of the export of prohibited products, which we consider a serious danger to the life and health of the peoples of the Third World.

My delegation firmly hopes that the signing of the Uruguay Round Final Act in this enchanting city of Marrakesh will mark the beginning of a new era in the history of world trade.

For this to be the case, it will in particular suffice for the political will of all contracting parties to converge upon the same objective of effective liberalization and active solidarity, with a result that products of export interest for developing countries are better treated and less subtly fended off or devalued by discriminatory trade restrictions and any practice that hinders the development process.

Such is our hope, and such is the key to success that is well within our grasp.

In conclusion, I should like to address my delegation's congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, to the Director-General, Mr. Sutherland, and to all his colleagues in the Secretariat for their admirable contribution to the success of this Conference.