MOZAMBIQUE BECOMES GATT'S 104TH CONTRACTING PARTY

Mozambique has become the 104th contracting party of GATT following a notification by its Government to the Director General, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, on 27 July. Mozambique has acceded under the terms of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement following its recent adoption of open-market economic policies.

The country achieved its political independence from Portugal in 1975 and the Government of Portugal informed the GATT that Mozambique had acquired full autonomy for its external economic relations. Since that time, it has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis. Under these circumstances, Mozambique needed only to notify the GATT Contracting Parties that it wished to be deemed a Contracting Party, having met the conditions required by Article XXVI:5(c).

Notes to Editors

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement is as follows:

"(c) If any of the customs territories, in respect of which a contracting party has accepted this Agreement, possesses or acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and
of the other matters provided for in this Agreement, such territory shall, upon sponsorship through a declaration by the responsible contracting party establishing the above-mentioned fact, be deemed to be a contracting party."

2. Mozambique's exports in 1990 amounted to US$145 million with prawns, cashew nuts, cotton and sugar the main export products. Imports in 1990 were valued at US$950 million with food, capital equipment and spare parts featuring as the main import products. Mozambique's principle export markets are Spain, the United States, Japan and Portugal, while its main suppliers are South Africa, the United States, Portugal, Italy and Japan.