SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS BECOMES 119th MEMBER OF THE GATT

On 24 March 1994, Saint Kitts and Nevis became the 119th member of the GATT following its notification to Mr. Peter Sutherland, GATT Director-General, under the terms of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement.

On becoming independent from the United Kingdom on 19 September 1983, Saint Kitts (Saint Christopher) and Nevis acquired full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis since then. Under these circumstances, Saint Kitts and Nevis needed only to notify the GATT Director-General that it wished to be deemed a contracting party according to the provisions of Article XXVI:5(c).

With the accession of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the number of participants in the Uruguay Round is now 121.

Notes to Editors

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

"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. In 1991, the total value of Saint Kitts and Nevis' imports of goods and services amounted to US$126 million. Imports were mainly from the United States. Exports of goods in the same year totalled US$73 million; the main export was sugar to the United States.