ANGOLA BECOMES 122nd MEMBER OF THE GATT

On 8 April 1994, Angola became the 122nd 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.

The Government of Portugal notified the contracting parties on 31 August 1976, that the custom-territory of Angola had acquired full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and other matters provided for in the General Agreement. Since 11 November 1975, Angola has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis. Under these circumstances, Angola 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 Angola, the number of participants in the Uruguay Round is now 124.

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 Angola's imports of goods amounted to US$1,347 million, primarily composed of consumer goods, capital goods and raw materials. Imports were mainly from Portugal, Spain and France. Exports of goods in the same year amounted to US$3,427 million consisting mainly of crude oil, refined petroleum and diamonds. Angola's principal export markets are the United States, Belgium-Luxembourg and France.