I shall endeavour to respect your injunctions and to be brief in my intervention. Permit me, however, in the first instance to congratulate you on your unanimous election as Chairman of this important meeting.

I have listened with rapt attention to the statements made by previous speakers and I am pleased to find myself in agreement with most of their observations. I have given careful consideration to Item 1 on our agenda which I consider of extreme importance particularly to the developing countries. I support whole-heartedly the recommendations of Committee III and the Special Group, and I find it unnecessary to go into any details of the eight-point Action Programme as our views, and indeed the views of a number of important trading nations, have already been incorporated in the document before us.

In our thinking on this matter we have kept foremost in our minds two basic considerations: firstly, that trends in international trade have been unfavourable for the trade of developing countries and that this development should be arrested and reversed. It is my feeling that all my colleagues assembled here accept the fact that these trends exist and pose problems for which the minimum and workable solutions are embodied in the eight-point Programme of Action. Secondly, that it is desirable and equitable that any practical programme designed to open up
and expand markets for tropical products, raw materials and manufactured goods of the developing countries should be geared to give equal opportunities to all developing countries alike in order to maximize opportunities for world trade expansion.

We welcome the enthusiastic support which the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States have given to the Action Programme. We are aware, however, that hitherto attempts made by some developed countries to deal with these problems have been half-hearted. For instance, the declaration made by the United Kingdom delegation this morning that their country had reduced the import duty on cocoa beans does not in any way indicate a realistic policy as the reduction was nullified by an increase in the consumption tax on chocolate products. It must be borne in mind that in both cases the burden of the tax is borne by the ultimate consumer. This tax burden tends to inflate the price of the final product, thus restricting ultimate consumption and the opportunity of the developing countries to expand their exports.

Unless we keep these points firmly and clearly in our minds, we shall not achieve results of any significance in this matter of deciding on measures for the expansion of the trade of developing countries as a means of furthering their economic development. We in Ghana are really disappointed in GATT as an instrument for the promotion of world trade, and I support in full the sentiments expressed by my colleague, the Minister of Ceylon. Unless a more positive approach is adopted in order to take into consideration the development needs of the developing countries the future of GATT will be at stake.

I have only intervened at this point to press for a positive approach to be taken by the developed countries in supporting the eight-point Action Programme before us.