Senegal is, by tradition and conviction, a country with an open trade policy. Further efforts were made this year to liberalize its foreign trade even further by the elimination of most of the restrictions that still affected certain imports. This action reflects much more eloquently than any words our faith in the advantages of free international trade unhampered by protectionist constraints that have an alienating influence.

If this goal is to be achieved, the elimination of protectionist measures must become the rule in international trade relations, and no longer the exception. That calls for courage. But it also calls for the abandonment of short-sighted policies which lead to apprehensive withdrawal behind increasingly high protectionist barriers.

In this respect the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round offer a prime opportunity that should be seized in order to reverse the protectionist trends that have been characteristic of the past decade and to create conditions favourable to the balanced expansion of world trade.

My country is participating in these new negotiations convinced that all contracting parties, and in particular the developed contracting parties, are determined to take into account the requirements and real capacity of the least-developed countries.

We hope that, in four years' time, the multilateral trade system will emerge victorious from the negotiations which our Ministers decided to launch at Punta del Este.

And it will emerge victorious if each contracting party approaches these negotiations bearing in mind not only its own interests but also, and above all, the legitimate trade interests of the other contracting parties; that, in any case, is the approach that Senegal intends to adopt, and we hope that other participants in the new multilateral trade negotiations will do the same.