The delegation of Jamaica congratulates you, Mr. Chairman, and expresses its appreciation for your wise stewardship as Chairman of the Council and now as Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. You have consulted widely and extensively over this period, and you have thus found solutions based on a willing consensus.

The delegation of Jamaica wishes also to express its appreciation for the steadfast manner in which the Government of Japan has pursued the launching of the multilateral trade negotiations. The Uruguay Round launched by Ministers at Punta del Este is testimony to Japan's increasingly important and respected rôle in international trade and finance. The international community is deeply indebted to the Government of Japan for this. It is true, of course, that as regards finance, there are some countries more deeply in debt to Japan than others.

As you said at the outset of this meeting, Mr. Chairman, the regular program of the GATT cannot be set aside as we turn to negotiations in the Uruguay Round. The Uruguay Round has neither enshrined new GATT rights nor imposed new GATT obligations. Each contracting party, in protecting and pursuing its trade interests, is therefore assured that the balance of rights and obligations remains unchanged, and can therefore also be assured that GATT remains the effective framework for protecting these rights.

The commitments undertaken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and I must emphasize the CONTRACTING PARTIES acting jointly at Punta del Este, to standstill and rollback of trade-restrictive or distortionary measures inconsistent with the GATT, will contribute to strengthening the GATT by halting and reversing protectionism, which has done so much damage in recent years. On the solid and credible basis of standstill and rollback commitments, CONTRACTING PARTIES acting jointly will be turning increasing attention to the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round.

May I at this stage take the opportunity to list a number of points which we would like to emphasize. In doing so I will refer to a number of points made by the representative of the United States. I believe his statement was rather important and we subscribe to much of what he has said.
First, we as contracting parties must reinforce the decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES meeting at Ministerial level, namely, in Part I of the Punta del Este Declaration concerning negotiations on trade in goods. Equally, as contracting parties acting individually, we must be faithful to the historic step taken in launching the multilateral trade negotiations covering goods and services. As the representative of the United States said, we must focus attention on the job ahead. The comprehensive agenda agreed by consensus — and it must also again be emphasized that it was by consensus — allows us to address the inadequacies of the international trading system and to ensure its relevance and credibility in the trading environment of the present and the future. In this, my delegation fully shares the views of the US representative.

Second, the course of the negotiations must now be of common concern. The negotiations pose both opportunities and challenges for less-developed contracting parties; the opportunity is to secure increased benefits from international trade through the increased production and exchange of goods and services. For developed contracting parties the challenge must be to cease to seek short-term benefits through continued recourse to defensive policies and protectionist trade measures. For all contracting parties the opportunity and the challenge is to build on the Punta del Este Declaration, again as the US representative said. These negotiations are in our interest collectively and individually.

Third, the Uruguay Round is a single political undertaking. It is not just another round. It comprises not only the traditional goods sector, but it focuses on bringing agriculture more under the disciplines of the General Agreement. It encompasses the dynamic services sector. It includes the important areas of trade-related investment and intellectual property, together so critical to national production and international trade.

Fourth, my delegation agrees that we must beware of bureaucratic Geneva guardianship of the negotiations. We believe that without the Ministers present in Punta del Este, we would not have taken the historic step that we have taken, and without the steady and regular infusion of ideas and participation from capitals, we could slip back again into that Geneva guardianship of the negotiations.

Fifth, the Uruguay Round was prepared and launched with the active and full participation of large, medium and small contracting parties. This reflected the clear perception that each one of us had an interest in the maintenance of an open multilateral trading system, one which had been seriously impaired by protectionist measures and gross disorder in monetary and financial markets. In the course of the negotiations, the participation of each contracting party, large, medium and small, will be the best guarantee that each contracting party's interest will be secure.