GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Forty-Second Session

ECUADOR

Statement by Mr. Carlos Larreategui
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(speaking as an Observer)

Since I am the last speaker in the discussion, I will not repeat ideas which have already been expressed here by a number of representatives on the serious problems facing international trade, and developing countries in particular. Therefore I will limit myself to expressing the full support of my country for the expressions of concern and expectation by developing countries on these various problems. As has been recognized unanimously, the deterioration of international trade is worse than ever. However, in this rather dark environment, the Ministerial Declaration of Punta del Este has, in our view, opened the door to hope. We expect that the negotiations will lead to satisfactory results in the fields of agriculture, settlement of disputes, safeguards and the implementation of special and differential treatment for developing countries, and that there will be strict observance of the standstill and rollback commitments which unfortunately have been flagrantly violated by one country shortly after their adoption in Punta del Este. With further progress in the conciliation of interests, and with the goodwill of all, we should go from a stage of conflicts to co-operation, and to realizing the expectations of all our countries in this crucial hour to strengthen faith in the multilateral trading system under GATT and to create a better economic order.