PROPOSAL OF CHILE TO THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED PRODUCTS

The following proposal has been received from the delegation of Chile with the request that it be circulated to members of the Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products.

1. It is a matter of priority interest that natural resource-based products should receive the attention they were not given in previous multilateral trade negotiations, the central objective being the fullest liberalization of their trade. Consequently, and without prejudice to the global nature of the Uruguay Round as a whole, and especially the particular relations between this Group and the Groups on tariffs and on non-tariff measures, it is essential to recognize the specific urgent need to liberalize natural resource-based products.

2. Negotiations should also bear upon the reduction or elimination of all forms of aid to the sector which have a direct or indirect effect on their trade.

3. The Group's work should follow a generic rather than a product-by-product approach, since the problems facing these products are generic, albeit of differing intensity. Nevertheless, an initial product coverage list for products to be entirely liberalized could be agreed in Montreal.

4. Since trade in natural resource-based products is primarily subjected to tariffs and non-tariff measures, when determining the generic approach referred to above account could be taken of some of the elements contained in documents MTN.GNG/NG2/W/15 and MTN.GNG/NG1/W/18, respectively. (Chile has some reservations about other elements in these documents).

5. Chile does not, however, consider it necessary to include new products, and therefore the sector should not be broadened. In this connection, the Ministerial Declaration of 1982, which clearly delimited the sector, must be borne in mind. Furthermore, this would make it possible to achieve concrete results in Montreal.