KOREA

Statement by H.E. Mr. Seung Ho
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

First of all, I would like to share with you, Mr. Chairman, and all the participants present here today, a deep sense of relief and achievement. At long last, we have successfully concluded the seven-year old negotiations of this ambitious Round.

Throughout the entire process of the Round, Korea has actively participated in all areas of the negotiations, and made commitments and concessions as befit a country of its stature in world trade. Above all, Korea's acceptance of the principle of comprehensive tariffication in agricultural trade deserves due recognition as a significant contribution to the timely completion of this Round. It was indeed a highly risky decision in my country that would not have been possible without Korea's sense of responsibility, and its will to co-operate for the success of this important Round.

With this very sense of responsibility and co-operation, I can assure you that Korea will continue to play its due part for the smooth implementation of the final package in the months and years to come.

Before I conclude, I should not fail to pay my highest tribute to you, Mr. Chairman, for your distinguished leadership, without which another deadline might have once again passed. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the "Friends of the Chair", whose willingness and ability to work together to overcome the last remaining obstacles helped bring this Round to a successful conclusion. My special thanks also go to the GATT Secretariat and its staff for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, I thank all the participants for their co-operation during the course of the negotiations.