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BOLIVIA

Statement by H.E. Mrs Ana María

In this connection, my country considers it a priority for all sectors involved in international trade to be treated in a balanced manner. We therefore cannot accept further delay in bringing agriculture under the rules and disciplines of the Organization.

We have stated and we repeat it. For us too, this sector involves other concerns and implications distinct from the merely trade-related aspect. These pertain to reduction of poverty, eliminating the conditions of extreme poverty in which Bolivians live in rural areas. The development prospects of this sector and its integration into international markets will also dictate whether we will be able to maintain the progress we have made at great sacrifice by eliminating coca leaf plantations. In this way we have made an appreciable contribution to humanity as a whole, as it has meant the removal from circulation of more than 220 tonnes of cocaine, which until recently were undoubtedly being distributed in the major capitals of the world.

For Bolivia, full compliance with the commitments assumed within the WTO framework is exacting a very high economic, social and political price. Nevertheless, this has not been matched by my country's participation in international markets, where it is facing considerable difficulties arising in large measure from non-compliance or *"sui generis"*