

WORLD TRADE

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In spite of our efforts at opening up our trade, our exports have been affected by trade practices that are unfair, lacking in transparency, and that penalize competitive domestic products. We consider these actions to be contrary to good trade practice. The barriers generally involve the imposition of abusive technical standards on minerals, agricultural goods and textiles. We firmly reject the application of "invisible" trade barriers, particularly since the international community has created appropriate and transparent mechanisms for eliminating "tariff" and "para-tariff" barriers.

We attach particular importance to the effective liberalization of agricultural and textile markets. We reaffirm our demand that the commitments assumed in those sectors be implemented, and we place great hopes in the results of future negotiations, offering our full support for the work being carried out jointly with UNCTAD in the areas of investment and competition.

As regards the future multilateral trade agenda, we fully support the maintenance and search for appropriate mechanisms to ensure the full integration of the developing countries in international trade flows. The WTO can contribute considerably to the prevention of marginalization, and by doing so it would also add to the credibility of the international trading system by ensuring the active participation of all of its Members.

The WTO and other international organizations must redouble and coordinate their technical and financial assistance efforts on behalf of the developing countries. And indeed, Bolivia deplors the decline that has been taking place in international cooperation at a time when national efforts need to be supported.

I repeat that we will spare no effort in seeking a successful conclusion to our discussions and in giving