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URUGUAY

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Throughout the 50 years of the multilateral trading system we are commemorating today, Uruguay has played an active role. Since the Havana Conference and the creation of the GATT in 1947, it has been one of the countries that believed that the liberalization and expansion of international trade make a decisive contribution to the development and well-being of peoples. Uruguay has always considered that the existence of clear, stable rules respected by all constitutes the best guarantee for free trade, leading to the creation of wealth and international peace. It was the first developing country to make use of the GATT's dispute settlement mechanisms to resolve trade

step towards greater liberalization of international trade that would lead to an increase in trade and growth of the global economy. Nevertheless, these negotiations should not delay the launching of the negotiations already agreed, particularly in agriculture. If this idea is adopted, both the negotiations initiated in accordance with the decisions in the

limited access available to many agricultural products as a consequence of the partial results of the Uruguay Round in terms of general access under the most-favoured-nation clause, differential criteria should be used for tariff-cutting according to the level of each country or customs union. Greater liberalization efforts should be expected from countries that maintain more protected and insulated markets. The negotiations should focus in particular on diminishing the so-called "tariff peaks in agriculture", the exaggeratedly high tariffs that were the current outcome of the tariffication exercise in the Uruguay Round and which in practice constitute an obstacle to trade, and on gradually reducing existing paratariff mechanisms until they are totally eliminated. Measures should also be taken to open up markets, for example, commitments on minimum and current access and the elimination of special "reinsurance" mechanisms (special safeguard for tariffied products and special treatment regimes under Article 4.2), to complement the action aimed at overcoming the limitations of the Marrakesh Agreements as mentioned above.

Domestic support commitments

The overall levels of domestic support for agriculture continue to be significantly higher than those in other sectors of economic activity. We must ensure that domestic support

In the case of textiles and clothing, we would like to underline the importance of proper implementation of the Agreement, avoiding recourse to new forms of protectionism. The process of integrating this

of peoples. We are convinced that, at the beginning of the new millennium, the World Trade Organization has an essential role to play as the point of convergence of all trade liberalization efforts at both the regional and individual levels, and as the engine for intensifying this