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48/54. Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,² the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,³ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,⁴ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,⁵ the document entitled "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment",⁶ and the various agreements, in particular Agenda 21,⁷ that provide an overall framework for developing cooperative action to address the development challenges of the 1990s,

Recalling its resolutions 45/201 of 21 December 1990, 46/207 of 20 December 1991 and 47/184 of 22 December 1992,

Welcoming the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the implementation of the outcome of its eighth session, in particular the institutional reforms within the organization,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning institutional developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade,⁸

Deeply concerned by the repeated delays in concluding the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations,

Stressing the urgent need for the Uruguay Round to be concluded in a balanced manner, taking into account issues of particular interest to developing countries and their development,

Emphasizing the importance of a strengthened multilateral trading system and of the respect by all countries for multilaterally agreed rules,

1. *Once again urges* all Governments, competent regional economic integration organizations, and the executive heads of the competent specialized agencies and of other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to present their views to the Secretary-General on this matter;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, an updated report taking into account the positive institutional

outcome and implementation of the results of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the developments in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

*75th plenary meeting
10 December 1993*

48/55. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,² the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,³ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,⁴ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,⁵ the Cartagena Commitment,⁶ and the various agreements, in particular Agenda 21,⁷ that provide an overall framework for developing cooperative action to address the development challenges of the 1990s,

Recalling its resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended,⁹ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly and 47/183 of 22 December 1992 on the eighth session of the Conference,

Noting the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the implementation of the outcome of its eighth session, in particular its contribution, within its mandate, to trade and environmental issues,

Noting with concern that, although a number of developing countries have experienced higher rates of growth and an expansion of their trade, the current international economic situation, characterized by slow growth and a fragile economic recovery, has adversely affected the growth and development of all countries, in particular the developing countries,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable multilateral trading system that is consistent with the goals of sustainable development and that leads to the optimal distribution of global production in accordance with comparative advantage, and of a stable international financial environment for economic recovery and growth in all parts of the world economy, in particular in the developing countries,

Noting with serious concern the intensification of pressures for protectionism and unilateralism, in particular in many developed countries, and stressing in this regard the need for all countries to halt and reverse protectionism and respect multilaterally agreed trade rules,

Emphasizing also that the high economic cost of protectionist policies has a negative impact on the economic growth and

sustainable development of all countries, in particular the developing countries, and emphasizing further that within this context such policies in no case constitute an appropriate means of addressing the serious problems of unemployment,

Recognizing that improved access to external markets and further multilateral trade liberalization are very important prerequisites for the reactivation of growth in all parts of the world economy, in particular in the developing countries,

Recognizing with satisfaction that major structural economic reforms, as well as trade policy liberalization and regional economic integration efforts, are being undertaken by many developing countries, as well as by a number of other countries, and that such policies have contributed to the expansion of world trade and enhanced export possibilities and economic growth prospects for all countries,

Recognizing also that regional economic integration processes, including those among developing countries, which have intensified in recent years, impart substantial dynamism to global trade and enhance trade and development possibilities for all countries, and stressing that in order to maintain the positive aspects of such integration arrangements and assure the prevalence of their dynamic growth effects, Member States and groupings should strive to be outward-oriented and supportive of the multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing the need for increased international support for the reforms being undertaken by many developing countries and by countries with economies in transition, including the provision of increased global market access for their exports, which is of critical importance for the success and further encouragement of those reforms,

Reaffirming the need to give priority to problems facing the least developed countries, owing to the fragility of their economies and their particular vulnerability to external shocks and natural calamities,

Reaffirming also the message from the Trade and Development Board to the Governments participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, adopted by the Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session, in which the Board stressed that an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round should be viewed as a prerequisite to a return to the path of growth, trade expansion and an improved world economic climate,¹⁰

Stressing that, for the Uruguay Round to be concluded in a balanced manner, issues of particular interest to developing countries and their development must be taken fully into account,

Emphasizing that a failure of the Uruguay Round would seriously risk eroding business confidence, intensify trade differences and disputes, retard global economic growth and recovery, encourage and protect uncompetitive sectors of the economy and undermine the outward-oriented reforms being undertaken by many developing countries,