

interact, it must be a process based on mutual consent or it simply will not work. The use of trade penalties to impose standards of conduct is not the answer. We must not allow the World Trade Organization to be recruited into such a misguided effort.

The risk of protectionist abuse is always lurking in the background. The globalization of world trade inevitably creates counter-pressures for protection or a harmonization of practices in other policy areas. When examining new issues, we must, for example, be wary of being seduced by the argument that differing approaches to issues such as environmental protection constitute an unfair trading practice justifying some form of sanction. New issues can become a vehicle for new protectionism.

Instead, these issues must be viewed through the prism of the rules we have negotiated and not seen as an opportunity for backsliding or for opening loopholes. If harmonization in some areas is desirable, then it must be negotiated in the appropriate forum. It is evident from the success we have had negotiating the "non-negotiable" in this Round that much can be done by the international community when the will is there. However, to fall victim in the World Trade Organization to the narrow interest groups who favour trade sanctions as the instrument of choice to force nations to comply with the policies of others would be to abandon some of the most fundamental gains we have made.

This gathering in Marrakesh marks the official end of the Uruguay Round. We have travelled a long and winding road from the first meeting in Punta del Este in 1986. Our actions this week will take us a major step closer to fulfilling our declared objective of strengthening international trade and, through it, economic conditions around the world.

We can all be proud of the role we have played in turning a hopeful idea into a reality for some 120 countries. I offer my congratulations to you all.

It is my honour also to extend the appreciation of the Government of Canada to His Majesty King Hassan II for his personal interest in this Ministerial Conference, to the Government of Morocco for its support and organizational efforts, and to the people of Morocco for their generous welcome.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.