

Mr. Chairman, colleagues:

As was discussed this morning, the prospects for moving the world economy toward renewed sustainable economic growth and job creation present our governments with some formidable challenges. In shaping our response to these challenges, we must consider the increasing globalization of economic activities and the growing interdependence of our domestic and international economic policies.

Trade is a major engine of growth and is leading many of our economies into recovery. At this time, nothing would contribute more to strengthening confidence in an expanding world economy than bringing the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion (and, let me add, at no fiscal cost). So far, our commitment to a stronger and more open multilateral trading system has been defied by the great complexity and the apparent intractability of the key issues on the Uruguay Round agenda. This has created uncertainties about the overall direction of trade policies and the future of the multilateral trading system itself. Creating new trade and investment opportunities requires tearing down trade barriers and reforming the trade rules governing our economic relationship. It is fundamental that all countries, big and small, be prepared to operate their trade regimes within these rules.

The decision by the United States administration to seek an early renewal of its negotiating authority and its determination to complete the Round by December 15, 1993 are positive steps. The shared determination by other OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] governments to reach an early GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] deal is also welcome.

This is critical, as the rest of the world is looking to us to demonstrate that we have ourselves re-engaged seriously and have laid the basis for resuming the full negotiating process in Geneva as soon as possible. Some 37 developing and developed countries have clearly placed the responsibility on us to show leadership by breaking the logjam in the market-access negotiations. We heeded their call, and last month in Toronto we created a new momentum for the Round. My colleagues from the United States, the European Community, Japan and I agreed to seek to develop the broad outlines of a large and balanced package of market-opening measures as the basis for a substantive statement on the Round by leaders at the Tokyo Summit in July.

This package will need to include broad and substantive services-liberalization commitments, including for financial services. It will also need to lead to a substantial reduction, harmonization and elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers facing all major goods sectors: manufacturing, resource-based and agricultural products.