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BANGLADESH

Statement by Dr. M. Ishaq Talukdar Minister (Economic Affairs), Permanent Mission

I would like to make the following submission relating to the report of the Committee on Trade and Development. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development in producing the report (L/6418) dated 26 October 1988. Bangladesh is happy to note a sentence at paragraph 2 of the report which states that "the Committee had an exchange of views on the work of the Sub-Committee on Trade of the Least-Developed Countries". It is felt that the work of this Sub-Committee merits some elaboration, which I shall attempt briefly.

On 15 February 1988, Bangladesh, on behalf of the least-developed countries (LLDCs), made a communication, entitled "The Uruguay Round and the Least-Developed Countries", to the Sub-Committee on the Trade of the Least-Developed Countries. In this communication, Bangladesh, pursuant to sub-paragraph 2(d) of the Enabling Clause (BISD 26S/203) and paragraph (vii) of Section B of the Punta del Este Declaration, made some preliminary proposals for consideration by Ministers. The participants in the Sub-Committee, in response to this communication, had a substantive exchange of views in a very positive manner. Subsequently, the Group of Negotiations on Goods (GNG), at the request of my delegation, transmitted this communication to contracting parties as document MTN.GNG/W/14, dated 25 July 1988, for consideration by the various Negotiating Groups.

At the latest meeting of the Sub-Committee on 26 October 1988, participants had further deliberations on the proposals of Bangladesh. Members of the Sub-Committee have shared a common concern that special attention must be given to the particular situation and problems of the least-developed countries as envisaged in Section B, paragraph (vii) of the Punta del Este Declaration. The Sub-Committee then requested its Chairman, Ambassador Huslid of Norway, to address a letter to the Chairman of the (GNG) to bring to his attention and, through him, to the attention of the Ministerial level meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee in Montreal, the preliminary proposals submitted by Bangladesh within the context of the

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Uruguay Round of Negotiations, so that the Ministers, in their turn, may take action as appropriate to meet the objectives laid down in the Punta del Este Declaration. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee did so.

May I add that Bangladesh's proposals have been examined in the Sub-Committee, and the least-developed countries have urged that these proposals be given careful consideration in the respective Negotiating Groups as well as in the GNG. Other proposals may also be tabled in the near future by the least-developed countries.