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“There is the intention to accord equal treatment to countries which differ greatly in their capabilities and development stages; that is terribly unfair. Our particularly backward and vulnerable economies - a logical consequence of centuries of colonialism, slavery and pillage - would never be able to successfully take part in the world economy in the absence of preferential schemes and of a great contribution in non-repayable foreign resources.”

References to the original: [Speech by commander-in-chief Fidel Castro at the special meeting of heads of State and Government of Cariforum, August 21, 1998](#)

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