

in the growth of our relations with the Arab states. It provides a forum, among its members, with our governments, and with our Arab friends, not only for exploring opportunities, but also for stimulating mutually rewarding exchanges.

The foundations of goodwill and understanding already exist between Canada and all States in the region. The fair-minded attitude in Canada towards the political problems of the area has long been established and recognized. The governments concerned appreciate that a fundamental objective of Canadian policy is to nurture mutually-rewarding bilateral exchanges with individual countries. In seeking to build on these existing foundations, my Government reaffirms the continuity and stability of this approach to our relations with the region.

In closing, I would like to wish you, the Canada-Arab Business Council and you, the individual Canadian exporters, every success in your eminently worthy endeavors. The number of Canadian Embassies in the region has increased significantly in the last decade, and our new Embassy in Abu Dhabi is now open for business. All of them stand ready to assist you. I as Minister for International Trade, and the officials of the Department of External Affairs are anxious to help you at any time. And my Government is committed to support you. We will listen attentively. And we will act effectively.

Thank you.