

Canada believes that trade and environmental rules and objectives should be mutually supportive. That is why the two Departments are committed to working towards more open, more predictable, rules-based markets. However, they are also aware that some members of the public continue to have concerns about the impact of further trade liberalization on Canadian interests and thus the public needs to be well informed, properly consulted and engaged on trade issues.

There is agreement that the *2001 Framework for Conducting Environmental Assessments of Trade Negotiations* will continue to be applied to our current and future trade negotiations. As well, work will continue with regional and bilateral partners to address SD issues of mutual concern. One practical way to do this is to negotiate environmental and labour agreements at the same time as bilateral and regional trade agreements are negotiated.

Sustainable Human Settlements

The world's urban areas are now home to nearly half of humankind and those numbers are growing. The development of contemporary societies will depend on understanding and managing the growth of cities, some of which have populations and economies larger than those of many countries.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Canada confirmed its commitment to sustainable urban development by inviting the world to Vancouver for the 2006 World Urban Forum. The Forum, an initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is held every two years to exchange ideas and best practices on human settlement issues.

The 2006 World Urban Forum in Vancouver will provide an opportunity for Canada to showcase its best urban practices, and to project leadership in sustainable urban development.

