

sourcing of light consumer goods such as apparel and footwear for sale in Canada.

In considering recommendation 39, it should be understood that the challenge is twofold for the WTO: building support for closer institutional co-operation between the ILO and the WTO, and finding ways to develop a dialogue among all WTO Members on the broader dimensions of trade liberalization. Attempts in recent years by the United States and other proponents to establish a link between labour issues and the WTO have stiffened the resistance of certain developing countries to any new initiatives in this area. These countries view such efforts as disguised protectionism rather than as genuine concern for human rights.

Canada is working with like-minded trading partners to secure official observer status for the ILO at the WTO. Canada also supports the establishment of a working group at Seattle that would address labour and other social policy issues within the context of globalization and trade liberalization. This approach encourages a more open and responsive WTO by fostering dialogue with civil society on social concerns and by promoting closer co-operation between the WTO and relevant international organizations.

Human Rights

In Seattle, Canada will encourage other WTO Members to establish a forum to respond to public concerns about policy coherence among international institutions. Coherence among institutions at the international level is critical to the effectiveness of international efforts to promote growth and development, and to achieving common goals in the area of human rights. More generally, the Government is committed to promoting human rights through its involvement in international fora such as the G-8, the United Nations, and the international financial institutions.

At the G-8, we have promoted discussion of the social dimensions of globalization. Canada supported the resolution adopted at the Cologne Summit, which recognized that democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and good governance are indispensable prerequisites for social stability and economic progress.