

increasingly circumscribed. We have designed an international institution that can regulate these issues, rather than serve more passively as a transformer that merely explains and absorbs the differences between trading partners.

At the recent G-7 Summit in Halifax, leaders of the major industrialized nations confirmed their commitment to implementing the Uruguay Round agreements, to consolidating the WTO as an effective institution, to ensuring a well-functioning and respected dispute settlement mechanism, and to ensuring that participation in regional trade initiatives continues to be a positive force for the multilateral system. As we stand at the Summit's peak, we can survey with some pride the WTO Agreement and all that we have accomplished in various regions lying just behind us. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round is surely one of the great achievements of the latter part of the 20th century, crowning almost eight years of negotiations, and signalling the fundamental changes occurring within the international trading system. We are right to regard this achievement with satisfaction.

But this achievement of a flourishing rules-based system brings with it other implications of particular relevance to a body such as the Canadian Bar Association. We are currently witnessing a new, concomitant trend: lawyers are now required in much greater numbers and with greater expertise in order to maintain the rules-based system. This necessarily means more and different work for lawyers in interpreting and applying the rules. During the negotiation of both the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and the WTO, lawyers were involved earlier on in the process and more extensively than before. The consultations between government and private sector representatives, formalized as the International Trade Advisory Committee and the Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade, have an increasingly juridical dimension. Industry representatives now seek legal counsel more often, both at home and abroad, in consulting with government on trade issues. Now, more than ever, there is a role for lawyers in the international trading system.

This burgeoning sector of legal practice is also manifest in a perceptible change in the types of rules we have adopted to govern the international trading system and, more particularly, in the way in which we enforce these rules. This brings me to my second major proposition. The new, far-reaching and prescriptive rules of which I have been speaking have bred new challenges. These rules demand streamlined and effective dispute settlement, to equip us with timely procedures for expeditious and responsive rules enforcement and to prevent all-out trade wars - a sort of essential containment function. This too has implications for the legal community.