

end of June 1996. WTO members have agreed to resume negotiations on maritime transport services with the next round of comprehensive services negotiations to begin no later than January 1, 2000. In the meantime, members undertook not to introduce any new restrictions in this area.

### 2.3 Trade Remedies

Canada seeks to bring greater discipline, transparency and clarity to the use of trade remedies to provide Canadian exporters with a more stable and predictable climate in which to do business. The Uruguay Round yielded improved rules governing subsidies. For example, there is now an agreed definition of what constitutes a subsidy and the conditions under which members can apply countervailing measures. However, the achievements in the new *Anti-Dumping Agreement* were more modest; representing technical and procedural improvements. In this regard, Canada will continue to push for improved disciplines aimed at limiting the arbitrary use of anti-dumping and countervailing measures. In addition, Canada will continue to ensure that improved disciplines on the use of trade remedies are not undermined by any renewed protectionist pressures.

Canada will continue to contribute to work in the WTO Committees on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Anti-dumping Practices, and Safeguards, to ensure that all members implement their WTO obligations fully and consistently. A key part of this work is a detailed notification exercise, whereby members present for scrutiny, among other things, their national legislation in the area of trade remedies.

### 2.4 Government Procurement

With annual global expenditures in the hundreds of billions of dollars, government procurement represents a massive potential area for international trade. However, because procurement is often seen as one of the last bastions of protection for domestic industry, countries have been reluctant to agree to disciplines at a multilateral level. Canada, along with 25 other countries, is party to the *WTO Agreement on Government Procurement* (AGP), which came into force on January 1, 1996, and provides tangible, though somewhat limited, benefits to Canadian exporters.

To increase business opportunities for Canadian exporters, Canada supports a range of activities in the WTO to broaden and strengthen government procurement disciplines. An early review of the plurilateral AGP will be undertaken in 1997. Canada wishes to see this review focus on increased security of market access, elimination of discriminatory measures and practices, expansion of coverage, and simplification and improvement of the procedural obligations of the Agreement. In addition, in December 1996, in Singapore, WTO trade ministers agreed to establish a working group to study transparency in procurement practices, taking into account national practices, and to develop elements for inclusion in an appropriate agreement. This represents an important first step in exploring options for introducing multilateral disciplines in government procurement for all WTO members. In addition, discussions are continuing in the context of the GATS to determine the scope for including government procurement disciplines under this Agreement.

### 2.5 Investment

The Canadian government believes the time is right to begin looking within the WTO at issues related to international investment that go beyond the existing *WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures*. This should be done in the context of the further development of a stable multilateral trading system, where trade and comprehensive investment rules are closely linked.

Foreign investment in Canada and Canadian investment abroad have grown exponentially in the last decade, reflecting the participation of Canadian business in a rapidly integrating world economy. Inward investment brings with it economic activity, and hence jobs; and successful investment abroad brings profits home, creating more wealth and economic activity in Canada. Canadian firms are investing in a broad range of countries at all levels of development, most of which are members of the WTO. Canada has therefore supported and was a leading promoter in establishing a work program on multilateral investment issues at the WTO Singapore Ministerial Conference in December 1996.