

- Foster adjustment to structural changes: and keep this trading system up-to-date, by addressing such issues as trade in services:
- tighten disciplines on the use of contingency protection.

Let me speak for a moment about agriculture. For too long, GATT has had the bad habit of putting agriculture to one side, and we now reap the consequences. We are all aware of the high cost and havoc of current agricultural policies and practices. The time has passed for papering over these problems. This Conference must agree to address the real problems of agricultural trade, and to get the negotiations underway quickly. We must be ready to engage in substantive negotiations by the end of this year. In no other sector is there such an urgent need to achieve an early result.

Of course Mr. Chairman, we are here this week to start a process, not a complete one. The negotiating comes next. First, we must agree on a joint declaration to let that work begin. The need to start is urgent. Each of us can cite compelling proof -- at home and internationally -- of the damage being done or threatened by a GATT system that increasingly is honoured in the breach. We all have reasons to want the negotiations to succeed -- although some countries, including Canada, seek that movement more urgently than others. Perhaps, as we begin, it is useful to ask: Who among us would want this process to fail?

Who would want farmers and treasuries both to be broken down by the dumb weight of subsidy? Who would want competition in services to be dominated by the unilateral decisions of powerful nations, rather than the common rules of us all? Who would want the grievous burden of debt to be aggravated by continued distortions of trade? Who would want to encourage the forces of narrow protectionism, already too strong in too many of our economies? No one wants that -- yet that would be the clear result if we missed this moment. The choice is not between acting here or acting elsewhere. The choice is between acting now, or letting the world slide into dangerous decline.

Canada has worked with others to prepare the Draft Declaration contained in W/47/Rev.2. We think it is the basis on which we should proceed.