

The Committee also notes the importance of using the FTAA to secure stronger investment protection measures throughout the Americas. With more than \$32 billion invested in the Americas outside of the NAFTA countries and Chile, Canadian businesses would benefit from a more liberal hemispheric investment regime that would include investment protection rules. In addition, outward investment by Canadian firms stimulates our exports, improves our competitiveness, and creates high-skilled jobs for Canadians.

The Government has played an active and important leadership role in the FTAA negotiations, reflecting the importance it places on concluding an agreement. Canada was selected to serve as the initial chair of the negotiations and the Government is confident that the progress achieved under Canadian stewardship paves the way for the next steps in the negotiating process.

As the negotiations to create an FTAA proceed apace, the Committee's Report serves as a valuable point of reference for government officials with a view towards establishing negotiating positions and pursuing outcomes in the best interests of Canadians. The Government agrees with the Committee's assessment that Canada's commercial interests and objectives have to be managed concurrently with broader objectives based on the social dimensions of trade and other public policy issues affected by international trade. The Government will retain its capacity to regulate in the public interest and believes that Canada's full participation in setting and regulating the rules-based regime for international commerce is essential for our future economic prosperity and continuing to advance the broader public interest within the globalized economy.

Canada's Trade Policy Agenda

Recommendations 6, 13 and 7

The Government agrees with Recommendation No. 6 that Canada should continue its active leadership role in moving the FTAA negotiations forward. The FTAA is an important element of Canada's trade policy agenda and the Government is committed to the FTAA process as a means of promoting international trade and investment and stimulating economic growth and development.

