

successful implementation of a WTO agreement on competition policy. A peer review process similar to the Trade Policy Review Mechanism could provide countries with an objective review of the substantive provisions of their competition policy. Any agreement will also need to take into account the development dimension. Technical assistance will need to be well designed to help developing and economies in transition enhance their capacity in the area of competition policy.

Finally, the Government continues to encourage research to better understand the impact of anti-competitive practices on international trade and investment. This includes the work being conducted at the OECD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, and the WTO.

Institutional Improvements to the WTO (recommendations 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11)

With respect to recommendations 3, 4, and 9, the Government agrees that the WTO and its activities need to be improved. Prior to the creation of the WTO in 1995, the institutional framework of the multilateral trading system had changed very little in almost fifty years. The creation of the WTO was a remarkable achievement, and we continue to benefit from its features, including the dispute settlement mechanism. The WTO's principles and practices have served its Members well, but changes are required to make it more responsive to their needs. Improvements are particularly needed in relation to dispute settlement, transparency, and coherence.

Dispute Settlement

The Committee's report identifies two key issues related to the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) Review, the participation in dispute settlement procedures by non-state actors, and the ambiguities found in the implementation articles of the DSU.

With respect to the participation of non-state actors, either as observers or through the submission of *amicus curiae* briefs, the Committee rightly points out in recommendation 10 that there is a