national committee has been established to focus the efforts of different levels of government and their agencies.

Drugs

Canada's domestic anti-drug strategy aims to reduce both supply and demand. It takes in legislation, enforcement and control measures against the illicit import, production, export, distribution, possession, and use of drugs; and it addresses prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, education and dissemination of information. Canada has been a member of the United Nations counter-narcotics institutions since 1946 and is an active member of the drug control body of the Organization of American States (OAS). Canada will be participating in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs, June 8–10, 1998. In support of the special session, Canada sponsored the April 1998 International Event on Youth and Substance Abuse. Held in Banff, the event gathered youth from around the world to compare notes and identify best practices for substance abuse prevention. Their work will be presented at the UN Special Session.

Computer Crime

The use of computers, the Internet and new communications technologies in crime is an increasingly important concern. Recognizing this, Canada has led in developing domestic and international responses. In 1985, Canada was one of the first countries to criminalize computer crime and is a recognized expert in developing international legal standards for combating it. Canada drafted the UN Computer Crime Manual, played a key role in developing guidelines on computer crime for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Council of Europe, and was invited to join the drafting group preparing the Council of Europe's cyber-crime convention.

In December 1997, Canada participated in a G-8 ministerial meeting that developed a set of principles and an action plan to address computer crime. All the measures instituted, in collaboration with industry, in these different international forums will help to enhance the public's confidence in international computer networks, thereby fostering the growth of electronic commerce.

Money Laundering

Canada and 25 other countries are members of the Financial Action Task Force, a body that has drawn up, and helped to implement, recommendations to help countries put a stop to money laundering. Canada's proceeds-of-crime legislation permits the seizing of assets and, where Canadian agencies co-operate in enforcement with their foreign counterparts, the sharing of those assets.