

careful attention by governments, but are necessary in order to secure sustained economic growth.

Since the beginning of the Uruguay Round of negotiations more than seven years ago, new issues have emerged that are directly related to international trade rules. In particular, issues such as the interaction between trade and competition policy, investment and the environment have emerged as new priorities. Governments, especially those of developed countries, have begun to analyse and address these issues in a serious way within international institutions such as the OECD, the GATT, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

During the concluding negotiations for the Uruguay Round, contracting parties recognized the need for continuing discussions about trade and environment issues. The Uruguay Round package agreed to on December 15, 1993, included a commitment to draw up a program of work on trade and environment issues and to recommend an appropriate institutional structure for its execution for approval at the April 15, 1994, ministerial meeting in Marrakesh.

It is expected that the Ministerial Council in Marrakesh will direct the first meeting of the General Council of the World Trade Organization to establish a Committee on Trade and Environment. The Committee's work program will include trade measures for environmental purposes (including those in international environmental agreements) and environmental measures with significant trade effects (including packaging, labelling and recycling programs and environmental taxes). Analysis would focus on the relationship of these measures to trade rules, provisions for transparency and market access issues. Also on the agenda are the issues of trade in domestically prohibited goods and the relationship of the dispute-settlement mechanisms of the WTO to those in international environmental agreements.

It is expected that the Ministerial Council in Marrakesh, recognizing the urgency of addressing trade and environment issues, will also direct that, pending the first meeting of the General Council of the WTO, the work of the Committee on Trade and Environment should be carried out by a Subcommittee of the Preparatory Committee of the WTO. This will ensure that the work on trade and environment issues will not be delayed and can begin immediately.

The Uruguay Round advanced the integration of trade and environment concerns. The work program of the WTO will ensure that progress on this integration will continue.