

principles in the North American Agreement on Labour Cooperation and the Canada-Chile Agreement on Labour Cooperation.

In 1998, in the context of the Summit of the Americas, two Working Groups: (Modernization of the State and Labour Administration and Globalization of the Economy and its Social and Labour Dimensions) were created to follow up on the labour elements of the Action Plan of the Second Summit of the Americas and the Plan of Action adopted by the Ministers of Labour following the XI Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour in Chile. The role of these groups is to provide relevant information to assist Ministers of Labour to respond to the challenges of economic globalization, in particular to improve working conditions and basic labour standards throughout the region. Canada is a member of the two Working Groups as our ILO regional representatives in Latin America.

Environment

With respect to Recommendation No. 11, it should be noted that the Government attaches great importance to respecting the provisions of international agreements and to ensuring that the appropriate national measures are in place to do so. The Government also supports reporting on progress in meeting international obligations as well as such other compliance mechanisms as may be appropriate as important tools in ensuring compliance by all the Parties with these obligations.

The Government believes that trade policy and environmental policy can and should be mutually supportive and, indeed, that liberalized trade is a key component of sustainable development. In the FTAA, the Government's position is that each Negotiating Group should consider relevant trade and environmental issues as they arise.

The Government supports further work to clarify the relationship between trade rules and trade measures in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). In the WTO, the Government has advocated a "principles and criteria" approach to MEAs that would assist both trade panels in assessing of MEA trade measures, and MEA negotiators in contemplating the appropriate use of trade measures in MEAs. In the NAFTA, Canada, the United States and Mexico agreed that specified

