

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL H. WILSON,  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

As my honourable colleague, Minister McDougall, has noted, the transformations we are experiencing are economic as well as political. Indeed, the countries and economies gathered around this table have been agents of these changes.

Canada's assessment of the global economic situation is generally positive. The recession has ended or bottomed out in several major industrialized economies, and inflationary pressures are moderating across a broad front. We believe that a common commitment to sustainable non-inflationary growth, including sound macro-economic policies and effective structural reform, is the best means to improve the performance of our economies.

In Canada, the Government's three-pronged strategy of fiscal responsibility, price stability and continued structural reform is bearing fruit. The federal deficit, as a share of the gross domestic product (GDP), has been virtually halved since 1984 to 3.7 per cent last year, using comparable accounting; the Government's target of cutting inflation to 2 per cent by the end of 1995 is well on course; and we have continued to address structural issues and acted to implement significant reforms to improve Canada's economic performance. The economy has come out of the recession, and we are beginning to grow again.

On October 29, I launched, on behalf of the Government, a major initiative to involve all Canadians in practical ways to improve our competitiveness. In the coming months, I expect this process to generate a series of policy recommendations for the Government to help us devise a strategy for strengthening our prosperity.

Looking at the region as a whole, it is clear that economic interlinkages are continuing to deepen. During the 1980s, trade among Pacific Rim countries grew at an average annual rate of 12 per cent, higher than either Asian-European trade or European-North American trade for the same period. Regional integration has also been encouraged by means of significant foreign, direct investment flows.

We are all aware that, since its founding meeting in 1989, APEC has proven its value in many significant areas of regional concern, ranging from human resource development and telecommunications to marine conservation. Canada considers it