

enforcement of a competition policy, the establishment of support mechanisms will be critical to the successful implementation of an FTAA chapter on competition policy. A peer review process similar to the WTO Trade Policy Review Mechanism could foster transparency and provide FTAA countries with an objective review of the substantive provisions of their competition laws and promote enhancement of their competition policies. While the Government agrees with the Committee on the need to encourage effective enforcement of competition laws, it will be necessary to ensure that any review process does not undermine the independence of competition authorities through a review of individual cases or of a competition authority's enforcement record. A chapter on competition policy will also need to take into account the development dimension. The Government has already been involved in providing technical assistance to countries in the Americas and further assistance will be required to help developing and emerging economies enhance their capacity in the area of competition policy.

The Government supports the recommendation of the Committee to resist merging anti-dumping provisions with predatory pricing provisions in competition policy and law. Rather, the Government will continue its efforts to seek improvements to the application and operation of anti-dumping systems in the hemisphere in the context of a separate Negotiating Group on Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties.

Government Procurement

Recommendation 24

The Government recognizes that an agreement on government procurement that includes all FTAA countries and covers the broadest possible range of goods and services (including construction) may provide benefits for the Canadian economy. The Government is currently examining its priorities for access to foreign government procurement markets, including FTAA countries. Consistency between an FTAA and existing government procurement trade agreements, including the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement, is a desirable objective, particularly with respect to

