

WTO member that wished to do so. On dispute settlement, Canada supports improvements with respect to the transparency of dispute settlement proceedings, the protection of confidential information and the panel roster system. Canada also seeks agreement on issues such as sequencing of compliance proceedings, the remand of issues from the Appellate Body to panels, and enhanced rights for members who are third parties to disputes.

On trade and the environment, Canada supports early action to reach agreement on the definition of environmental goods, so that tariff elimination for these goods can be covered in the non-agricultural market access negotiations. Canada supports an approach under which a core group of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and other relevant international organizations would observe these negotiations rather than continuing with the current case-by-case invitation approach. Canada also supports discussions on voluntary eco-labelling in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment.

Considering the needs of developing countries and advancing the cause of sustainable development through these negotiations are also central to Canada's objectives with respect to the Doha Development Agenda. For this reason, Canada supports effective special and differential treatment; the provision of trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building; and greater institutional and policy coherence between the WTO, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international institutions to help developing countries manage their transition to full participation in the global economy.

In pursuing Canada's trade policy, the Government of Canada will continue its program of outreach and consultations to help build understanding and support for these WTO negotiations and to ensure that objectives and priorities reflect Canadian goals and values. As part of this effort, the government's trade policy Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac) will continue to provide information on trade policy issues and invite public comments on negotiating priorities and objectives.

The Cancun Ministerial and Status of Negotiations

In September 2003, the 146 members of the WTO met in Cancun for a mid-term review of the Doha Development Agenda and to take decisions needed to move the negotiations forward.

Members endorsed the August agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights and public health that would allow low-cost generic versions of brand-name drugs to be shipped to poor countries to deal with public health issues. Members also welcomed the accession of two new members, Cambodia and Nepal, which will be the first least-developed countries to join the WTO since 1995.

While progress was made in some areas under negotiation, the atmosphere of the Conference did not lend itself to consensus building. The disagreement in Cancun can best be explained by the significant gaps in the level of ambition pursued by different members. Other factors that contributed to the lack of agreement on directions for further progress in the Round included differences over agricultural trade reform; differences over the development of new rules for the "Singapore Issues" (investment, competition, trade facilitation and transparency in government procurement); a weak response to the cotton initiative; and uncertainty regarding the ambition and flexibility that would be provided in the modalities for the non-agricultural market access negotiations.

Although members failed to agree in Cancun on how to proceed on the Singapore Issues, Canada sees considerable value in the development of multilateral rules on all four issues (see separate sections in this chapter).

WTO members are working in Geneva to restart the negotiating process. The challenge is to capture the progress that members saw at Cancun and to rebuild the process so negotiations can move toward an ambitious outcome in line with the Doha mandate.

On November 6, 2003, the Government of Canada tabled legislation that will allow lower-cost pharmaceutical products to be manufactured and exported in response to public health problems afflicting many developing and least-developed countries. Canada will be the first WTO member to implement the WTO decision on access to medicines domestically.