

- Making greater efforts to improve the evaluation of government assistance to industry and regions and assessing its impacts. More effective evaluation of the costs and benefits of support measures is indispensable for taking rational decisions on whether to provide assistance and, if so, in what form. Assistance should be subjected to regular and impartial critical review in terms of its objective, its design, its administration, its recipient and its ultimate use. The appraisal should take into account longer term, economy-wide impacts of the assistance measures and not be restricted to the short-term concerns of the specific activities in question. Improvement should be sought in the methodologies for measuring the costs of closures against the costs of continued government assistance.
- Striving for greater transparency in the implementation of assistance policies. This involves enhancing the coherence of institutional arrangements in this field, through the clear delineation of responsibilities and objectives, as well as steps to ensure that the goals and impacts of different assistance programmes are not mutually counterproductive. Policy consistency should also be sought with respect to the conditions to which specific aid is tied and the timetable to which it is to be phased out.
- Granting all interest groups and the public at large greater access to reviews and assessments of policy formulation, implementation and implications during both the decision making process and the monitoring process. In this way, narrower sectional pressures for assistance might be better countered by a wider representation of interests.

4. Transparency also has an international dimension. It is essential for achieving consensus among governments about appropriate adjustment policy responses. Delegates agree that the institutional mechanisms for reporting, consultation and cooperation in the cases where domestic assistance may lead to international frictions need to be further strengthened. They recognised that this is important in order to avoid shifting adjustment burdens and especially employment problems of specific industries from one country to another, to break the vicious circle of cumulative and competitive subsidisation, to re-establish confidence for investment and to ensure the continuing benefits of an open world trading system. Such mechanisms should retain a genuinely multilateral rather than bilateral character, and be supportive of the respective roles of OECD, GATT, IMF and other international organisations.