

Helping developing countries

Many developing countries feel they did not achieve enough access to other countries' markets during the Uruguay Round of negotiations, particularly for agricultural, textile and clothing products. Canada believes that richer countries can help through a comprehensive approach. This would include:

- the elimination of all export subsidies and the maximum possible reduction of production and trade-distorting support;
- reducing non-tariff barriers that distort trade;
- supporting investor-friendly regulations in developing countries;
- increased support to help build capacity—the infrastructure needed to implement trade agreements and participate in trade.

Progress on anti-dumping

Dumping occurs when foreign exporters sell their goods in international markets at prices lower than in their home market or at prices below the full cost of production, which can have a negative effect on import markets. While countries are allowed to impose anti-dumping duties, it is important that they are applied in a fair and equitable manner. Canada therefore supports clarifying and improving existing anti-dumping rules so that everyone follows the same rules in the same way.

Reduction of non-tariff measures

While tariffs have fallen in many of Canada's export markets, non-tariff measures have generally been on the rise. Some examples of non-tariff measures that tend to restrict or hamper Canadian exports include import licences and a variety of non-tariff duties and charges such as customs processing fees and consular charges. Canada would like to see WTO members continue to set priorities on measures to be eliminated and develop principles to limit the scope of new measures.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE WTO

The debate will probably never end. People have different views of the pros and cons of the WTO's multilateral trading system. Indeed, one of the most important reasons for having the system is to serve as a forum for countries to work out their differences

on trade issues. Individuals can participate, not directly, but through their governments. However, it is important for the debate to be based on a proper understanding of how the system works.

TRADE THREATENS OUR SOVEREIGNTY

- Trade agreements are designed so countries treat each other equally, with fair ways to resolve disputes. They enhance the sovereignty of both small and large countries by creating rules by which all players agree to operate, regardless of the size of their economy or their political might.
- Even the smallest nation has power and protection. If its case is legally stronger, it wins. Costa Rica, for example, has beaten the U.S. using the WTO's dispute settlement process.

OUR CULTURE IS THREATENED

- Preserving and promoting our culture is a priority in all international negotiations. Canada won't agree to negotiations that threaten its culture.
- We are now promoting the idea of a new international instrument on cultural diversity, which would set clear rules to enable Canada and other countries to keep policies that promote their culture, while also respecting international trade rules.

GLOBALIZATION THREATENS OUR SOVEREIGNTY

- Globalization is a fact. We can use it as a powerful force to meet our needs, or we can try to hide from it by erecting barriers. But we cannot halt it.
- The development of land-mine treaties, international courts and protocols on global warming are all examples of globalization. Isolating ourselves from the positive change globalization offers will impede both our economic and our social progress.

OUR SOCIAL SYSTEM IS THREATENED

- Canada's health and public education systems are not negotiable. Canada will preserve its ability to take measures in key sectors such as public health and education and will never jeopardize public systems that are the envy of the world.

TRADE THREATENS THE ENVIRONMENT

- Canada will not give up its right to set its own environmental laws and regulations.
- Canada's policy is to ensure that trade and environmental rules complement one another to the benefit of all parties.

TRADE LOWERS LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

- Improving trade links with other countries gives us the influence to promote labour rights and human rights.
- Trade and economic growth create jobs and reduce poverty, thus encouraging social progress.

Misconceptions