

Mr. Chairman,

When Ministers last met to discuss trade issues, the world economy was in the midst of its deepest recession in the post-war period. The recovery since has been real, but clearly uneven. In most countries, but particularly in the developing world, process has been achieved through difficult sacrifices. We must ensure collectivity that these hard-won gains are not threatened by the persisting and massive global imbalances.

We must preserve those hard-won gains, and make more progress against the massive and persisting global imbalances. The issues are related--debt, development, policy coordination, trade. We need more effective cooperation among the institutions which deal with them -- the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the GATT. We need evidence of national restraint, so that unilateral action does not distort the recovery even further. But most of all, we need to move from talk to action.

To address all issues together is to risk resolving none of them. Trade is the key to many doors -- to easing the debt; to spurring development; to creating growth. Those doors are closing now, unless we turn the key of trade.

All of us have particular objectives for the new round. Canada depends for over thirty percent of our Gross National Product (GNP), on exports of goods and services. For us, external markets are essential to every farm and industry and occupation. In their way, these GATT rules are as important to us as the rules of our own Constitution.

Canadians want to:

- Stop Protectionism, and roll it back:
- Improve access to foreign markets, particularly in natural resource products, services and high technology:
- Reform the rules and increase the access for agricultural trade:
- Increase the discipline of GATT, the settlement of disputes and surveillance:
- Strengthen the GATT as an institution, with greater ministerial involvement: