

Pending developments with respect to the negotiation of a new International Instrument on Cultural Diversity, the Government of Canada will continue to seek the maximum flexibility in international agreements, such as the proposed FTAA, to pursue its cultural policy objectives.

Intellectual Property

Recommendation 27

The Government agrees that Canadian positions in intellectual property (IP) trade policy negotiations should represent all Canadian interests. An international framework for IP rights provides certainty and transparency that encourages trade. It also encourages innovation and investment in research and development, both at home and in export markets. It facilitates licensing arrangements (such as the transfer of technology) to establish or expand business opportunities. Finally, such a framework for IP rights allows for the balancing of national objectives, such as the protection of public health, and the promotion of the public interest in certain key sectors.

The Government will participate in continuing international negotiations covering intellectual property rights, including the FTAA, and will develop negotiating positions that are consistent with our domestic intellectual property policies and that advance Canadian IP interests as they evolve through ongoing consultations with Canadians. The Government will also build alliances with trading partners to help in obtaining successful results for Canada.

Technical Barriers to Trade

Recommendation 19

Recommendation 19 urges the Government to seek to establish an FTAA agreement that incorporates rules on technical barriers to trade that are consistent with our international obligations. Canada has benefited greatly from the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, and the Government will seek to extend these benefits through an FTAA by proposing the full and effective implementation of the WTO TBT Agreement. This will allow countries to carry on with the uncompleted work of implementing the TBT

