

information, streamline the panel selection process and enhance the transparency of dispute settlement proceedings. 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.

Considering the needs of developing countries is 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.

The negotiations suffered a setback at the Cancun Ministerial Conference in September 2003, when members could not agree on a way forward. Factors that contributed to the lack of agreement 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.

The July Package

After the setback in Cancun, WTO members returned to the negotiations in 2004 with a commitment to try to make progress. In July 2004, 147 members of the WTO agreed to a July package of frameworks and other decisions that allowed the negotiations to advance to a more detailed phase. The July package is a step toward achieving Canada's goal of an ambitious outcome to the negotiations, including a level playing field for the agri-food sector, increased market access for goods and services providers, strengthened rules on anti-dumping, countervail and subsidies, binding multilateral rules for trade facilitation, and the better integration of developing countries into the global economy.

The July package commits WTO members to the elimination of agricultural export subsidies, substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, and contains a framework that could provide substantial improvements in market access for all products. The package provides momentum to the negotiations on trade in services by calling on members to submit any outstanding initial market access offers as soon as possible and requiring members to submit revised offers by May 2005. The package also reaffirms WTO members' commitment to progress in the rules negotiations on anti-dumping, countervail and subsidy and launches negotiations on trade facilitation, a long-standing Canadian objective. The three other Singapore Issues (investment, competition and transparency in government procurement) were removed from the negotiating agenda. Finally, the July package reaffirms the centrality of developing country concerns in the negotiating groups and reinforces the importance of issues such as trade-related technical assistance, capacity building, and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

Further information on the July package can be obtained from the government's trade policy Web site (www.international.gc.ca/tma-nac/WTO/wto-backgrounder-en.asp).

Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Access to Medicines

Members reached a decision in August 2003 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. On May 14, 2004, the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act received Royal Assent, making Canada the first country to pass legislation implementing the August 2003 decision. The legislation will come into effect once the regulations necessary to complete the legislative framework have been passed. This is expected to take place in spring 2005.

Moving Forward – Canada's Objectives in 2005

Negotiating groups began meeting again in the fall of 2004 to lay the groundwork for the Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, scheduled for December 13 to 18, 2005. In Canada's view, WTO