

II. MULTILATERAL OPTIONS

A. Joint Collaboration in the WTO, OECD, APEC, and ad hoc groups

Overview

Both sides concurred that the ever-changing world economic environment requires both governments to work closely together to adapt more effectively to the many changes facing them.

Taking into account the nature of its mandate, the Working Group, rather than attempting to coordinate the position of both governments on specific issues in particular multilateral fora, agreed to establish an institutional framework through which both governments may facilitate preparation for, and consultation during, multilateral decision-making processes where they share mutual interests or concerns.

Both sides also agreed on the usefulness of addressing in a bilateral context a variety of emerging issues on the global trade agenda (as annexed to this report) through different levels of dialogue channels during the course of collaboration. Highest priority would be given initially to anti-dumping and to financial services, given the fact that these matters were germane to the bilateral relationship.

Recommendations

1. Both governments will establish regular dialogue channels between the diplomatic missions of both countries that are responsible for day-to-day business relating to such major multilateral economic fora as the WTO (GATT), the OECD and APEC.
 - a. To this end, both governments will designate Geneva, Paris and Singapore as the principal contact points for such dialogue. Additional contacts may also be arranged between our respective missions in Washington, D.C and Brussels. The list of each country's officials for contact will be updated periodically.