

In addition, although no trade measures in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) have been challenged to date, Canada has argued that it would be prudent, for both environmental and trade reasons, to clarify the relationship between WTO rules and trade measures in MEAs. Canada has advocated a “principles and criteria” approach to MEAs that would assist both WTO panels in assessing the legitimacy of MEA trade measures, and MEA negotiators in contemplating the appropriate use of trade measures in MEAs.

The Government agrees with recommendation 36 and has met with the Environmental Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade (SAGIT) to solicit advice on trade and environment issues. Consultations with the Environmental SAGIT will continue throughout the negotiations. In addition, consultations have been held with civil society representatives in cities across Canada.

In regard to recommendation 37, Canada has not only carefully studied current proposals but has already taken action in many of the areas mentioned. In particular, Canada:

- participated in and helped to fund the March 1999 WTO High Level Symposia on Trade and Environment and Trade and Development. The Symposia enabled senior officials to exchange views and provided them with first-hand exposure to a range of issues and perspectives, including the views of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry associations, and academics. Canada also helped fund, and participated in, the NGO Symposia on Trade and Environment organized by the WTO in 1997 and 1998.
- is making preparations for an environmental assessment of the new WTO negotiations in consultation with the provinces and interested stakeholders. Canada has proposed that WTO Members undertaking environmental assessments exchange information to avoid duplication and reduce costs, and that they encourage other countries to undertake environmental assessments. Canada has also funded and participated in the workshop on “Methodologies for Environmental Assessment of Trade Liberalisation Agreements” organized in 1999 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).