



environment. Panel and Appellate Body decisions dealing with environmental measures have been few in number but the reasoning in those decisions indicates that the WTO rules are flexible enough to accommodate such measures as long as they are scientifically based, and are not applied in a manner that is arbitrarily discriminatory or a disguised restriction on international trade. To date, no WTO Member has challenged the WTO consistency of the measures implemented by another Member to give effect to specific trade measures contained in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Several MEAs have been negotiated, and others may be negotiated in future, which incorporate trade-related measures in order to achieve their objectives. Canada had argued, in the regular work programme of the Committee on Trade and Environment prior to Doha, that it would be prudent, both for trade and environmental reasons, for WTO Members to clarify the relationship between WTO rules and trade measures in MEAs. Canada had supported further work on this issue, short of negotiations, going into the Doha Conference.

The Government believes that liberalized trade and environmental protection can and should be mutually supportive, and that liberalized trade is compatible with sustainable development. It is essential to foster coordination and cooperation, both domestically and internationally, to meet the cross-cutting nature of trade and environment issues. The Government is pleased with the inclusion of environment and sustainable development elements in the Doha Development Agenda, which represent a significant advance in integrating environmental considerations in the WTO, as well as the call for environment negotiations, including the reduction or elimination of remaining tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in environmental goods and services.

The Ministerial Declaration mandates negotiations on the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs. These negotiations are limited to the specific situation where a WTO Member is also a Party to the MEA and there are additional conditions in the provisions of paragraph 32. The Government's goal in these negotiations will be to take advantage of this unique opportunity to ensure that the outcome of the negotiations reinforces mutually supportive multilateral trade and environment policies, and benefits both the multilateral trade system and multilateral environmental governance. The Doha Ministerial Declaration also refers to the regular work programme of the Committee on Trade and Environment, in which the discussions on other aspects of the WTO-MEA relationship can continue. The Committee will be preparing a report on all elements of its work programme for the Autumn 2003 Fifth Ministerial, which, where appropriate, is to include recommendations with respect to future action, including the desirability of negotiations.

